



Yeo Park Infants School Homework Policy

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Introduction

Most researchers, conclude that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance. However, research does say that there is significant research that clearly demonstrates the positive effect of reading to and with your child each night. There is also evidence to suggest that using learning opportunities to engage with your child such as cooking, counting games, rhymes and play does also have positive benefits. At Yeo Park Infants School we believe there is a great deal of merit in these activities. Further research suggests that connecting with your child each day about what they have been learning promotes the link between learning and home and school.

In **Kindergarten** students will be asked to read each night. They will also be asked to learn some sight words and parents should also take regular opportunities to work with students on games that reinforce sounds such as snap or dominoes and numbers and counting to help their child.

In **Stage One** the teachers will set a small amount of work to reinforce organisational habits, create opportunities for home and school links to learning and work that will give students opportunities to reinforce classroom learning in fun and real ways. This might be playing games, learning spelling using research driven methodologies, playing maths games, learning about a country, creating a design and make task or writing a speech. We would expect children to sit down for approximately fifteen minutes three times a week to do some of this learning. In addition, we would ask parents to read with and to their child each night.

No tasks sent home are compulsory except for reading. However, teachers will set quality work that we believe will definitely support your child's learning. In addition we will send home the feedback from PLAN testing before each holiday with ideas for you to do to support your child's learning.

Parents should discuss concerns with their child's class teacher. Parents should also feel free to approach their child's class teacher to get ideas to help to support their child during the year. It is important to remember that your child needs to experience success and satisfaction. Their work should be owned by them. Parent help and guidance and seeking opportunities to teach your child is highly beneficial. However, completing homework for or setting impossibly high benchmarks will not benefit your child. We see their work every day.

Quality

Research indicates that student learning may be enhanced if homework is:

- appropriate for each student's age and ability
- relevant to each student's needs
- purposeful and designed to meet specific learning goals
- varied and challenging, but achievable
- built on knowledge, skills and understanding developed in class
- clearly stated and requirements made explicit during class time
- supported by teacher strategies for students having difficulties with homework.

Homework tasks should be assigned by teachers with a specific, explicit learning purpose. On completion, teachers should acknowledge student effort and provide feedback related to student learning.

Manageability

The quantity of homework needs to be manageable so that teachers can ensure quality, and can provide feedback to students on completion.

Homework that is manageable for students will:

- be age appropriate
- consider students' outside of school hours commitments
- take into account students' access to resources and technology beyond school
- be clearly communicated to students
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances