



Advice for parents

As teachers, we often change our strategies for motivating children as we go. What works for one term can lose its novelty factor and children are quick to lose interest. Perhaps you are experiencing the same at home. If so, chat with your children and find new strategies and rewards. Children are amazing and often come up with the answers for us.

One dilemma you may face during these times is situation below:

*I am having trouble getting ***** to do their home learning. I have taken their I-pad away, but this caused ructions in the whole household, and I am reluctant to do this again. However, ***** needs a consequence. What should I do?*

This is a very common dilemma but firstly, remember you are doing a brilliant job! Your child(ren) is fed, watered, dressed and hugged. The feedback we have had from teachers is that parents are being very creative and managing to do a great job occupying their children and getting most of their home learning completed. Often, whilst juggling their own at-home working commitments.

The advice I would give you is three-fold:

Firstly, PICK YOUR BATTLES. If most of the home learning has been done on most days then negotiate with your child(ren) in a positive way and let them know you are going to reward them for all the work they have done and let them off for the odd day here and there. Better to have 4 days of good work completed than part of 5 days under duress with the whole family negatively affected.

Secondly, make sure they are completing the work away from their usual play areas so they can be in the right mind set for learning and their heads are in 'school' mode. They could have special pens/ pencils to use, a special drink they have whilst completing it, a certain place to sit ... reminding them they are in 'home-learning' mode.

Thirdly, encourage them to communicate with their teachers by sending in their work or pictures of activities they are involved in as they will get positive feedback and encouragement to continue. I know the teachers have been delighted to see the learning happening at home and they miss the children so. They could also share their home learning by email to Grandparents and /or other family members.

Remember that 'every moment and every day is a fresh beginning!'