

Homework in the Early Years.

During your child's first years at school, the most important thing you can do at home is help them to be excited about all the learning they are doing.

This year we are going to be using Seesaw to help us share what we are learning at school with our whanau. An invitation letter including instructions on how to use this amazing free app will be coming home shortly. Please take the time to look at what your child has been doing at school and talk about their learning with them.

Your child needs to bring their bookbag to and from school each day for notices, books, and extra homework suggestions. While it can be very helpful for your child to do some homework there is no expectation for lots of homework every night.

Here are a few of the things you can do at home.

Alphabet

Letters are taught in order of usefulness rather than alphabetical order.

- Help your child notice known alphabet letters in books, newspapers and even junk mail
- Practise the sounds of the letters as well as the names
- Play games like I spy where the child has to listen for and match initial sounds

High Frequency Words

Try practising reading and writing high frequency words in fun ways like using chalk or squirting water on the concrete. Look for known words in papers or books.

Reading Books

The reading books that come home with your child should be fairly easy for them. They are for practising fluent, smooth reading. If they are struggling reading them to you, then read it to them instead to model good fluent reading.

Early reading - As students first learn to "read" they memorise the story. This is an important stage of learning to read. They will also "read" the pictures. This is also hugely important. A common mistake parents make is covering the pictures. The pictures are there to help the child. They are not expected to know all the words at this stage, so they need the pictures to give them clues as to what it might say. As they learn about letter-sounds they can use the pictures with some sounds to make a good guess.

Maths

Practise reading, writing and counting numbers. Look for numbers in real life situations such as shopping, baking, letterboxes, number plates, road signs etc.

Finally, we understand that the first year or so of school can be very tiring for everyone involved so if your child is too tired after a big day of learning, have a quick chat about something awesome they've done at school and don't worry about any other homework. If it's a going to be a drama, it's not beneficial.

Please come and see me or send me an email if you have any questions or concerns.