



The ILM Foundation
Centre for Educational Excellence

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Benefits of Homework in Early Years of School



Workshop Highlights

- **Is homework beneficial?**
- **Myths about Homework**
- **Purpose of Homework**
- **Categories of Homework**
- **How Much Is Appropriate**
- **Benefits of less Homework**
- **Homework Strategies**

Helps the students to:

- **Internalize** information
- **Retain** class taught lessons
- **Develop** study habits as independent learners
- **Gain** knowledge and experience in developing responsibility and self-discipline
- **Learn** time management



Helps the teacher to:

- **Determine** how well the lessons are being understood by their students
- **Supplement** class instruction time
- **Bridge** the gap between lessons

Myths about Homework

- Myth number 1: Homework is important as early as possible so that children develop good study skills.
- Myth number 2: Children should have homework because they have to learn that sometimes they have to do things they don't want to do.

- Myth number 3: Homework makes children take learning more seriously.
- Myth 4: Homework in the early years produces better learning outcomes at secondary school.

Purpose of Homework

- Homework for homework's sake is not necessary.
- Life in the 21st Century is a far cry from the 70's and 80's when often one parent was home and the children were not being overscheduled with after school activities.
- Lifestyle and teaching and learning have changed.
- Homework should be framed as “helping children to view learning as part of life”.



- Homework should support children to see Maths and Literacy in everyday life.
- From time to time there will be the need for some children to do additional work at home.
- Homework should be personalised.
- Homework should include a whole range of experiences, not traditional worksheets.
- Children are in school for 5.5 hours a day, this is discipline enough.



Categories of Homework

Homework usually falls into three categories:

1. Practice
2. Preparation
3. Extension



How Much Is Appropriate?

- The National PTA recommendations fall in line with general guidelines suggested by researcher Harris Cooper: **10-20 minutes** per night in the **first grade**, and an **additional 10 minutes per grade level** thereafter.

- For elementary school: **1 hour** per day is optimum amount. Ideal is **45 minutes.**
- For high school: **1 ½ hour to 2 ½** hours per day is optimum amount of time

Benefits of **less** Homework:

There are at least **three** major benefits of less homework:

1. **Increase** parent-child bonding time
2. **Reduce** family stress
3. **Free-up** time for life-changing activities

Homework Strategies

- **Assign** what students already know.
- **Don't involve** parents.
- **Review** and then ask one important question.
- **Confront** students on the spot.

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