

Supporting Home Learning (Appendix 1 to Home Learning Policy)

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October 2019	Version 3 This is a rewrite of a previous policy which is in line with our commitment to latest initiatives in Bahrain.

In line with our commitment to latest initiatives in Bahrain, we believe that home learning should be fun, provide opportunities for deeper learning and develop a well-rounded child. Our Home Learning Policy promotes collaboration with parents. Worldwide research into the value of prescriptive homework in a primary setting shows that it has very little to no impact on attainment and can even have negative effects on mental health and family life.

What home learning could a child at Nadeen School be doing?

All children benefit from **reading** every day. At a pre-reading level, this would involve looking at books, describing pictures, telling stories orally or being read to by an adult. At an emergent/early reading level, this would be reading their banded reading books at home, as well as participating in ‘family reading’ – the sharing of books and stories and being read to by an adult. At a more fluent reading level, this would involve reading to an adult and/or reading independently. The more discussion at home about what children are reading, the better for their reading skills. Year 6 children are not too old to be read to at bedtime!

In school, children practise **phonics or spelling**. Spellings could include tricky words from Letters and Sounds; high frequency or medium frequency words; practising spelling patterns (as per No Nonsense Spelling programme); practising the year 3/4 or year 5/6 statutory spelling lists. To consolidate this learning, here some fun activities to try at home:

- Playing games on www.phonicsplay.co.uk or doing simple phonics activities/games (like ‘I spy’ or draw me some things that begin with ‘ch’ or listing words that have the ‘ay’ sound in).
- Making words learned in class with magnetic letters/fingers in sand/wet paintbrush on a blackboard/playdough etc. to reinforce the shape of them and the muscle memory to make them.
- Playing the individually targeted activities on Education City.
- Making up nonsense rhymes using spelling patterns.
- Writing poems and short stories.
- Helping make shopping lists; keeping diaries; holiday itineraries and writing to family members etc.

In school, children consolidate **number work** most days. This might involve:

- Practising and learning number bonds to 10, 20, 100, 1, etc.
- Learning multiplication and division facts and having quick recall of these.
- Counting forwards and backwards, especially over ‘boundaries’.
- Practising using money, working out change, etc.
- Practising weighing/measuring.

To enhance your child's learning in **maths**, here are some home-learning activities:

- Learning Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS).
- Play with numbers from car registrations whilst sitting in traffic e.g. add the even numbers; times the odds add the first and last number etc. Depending on age and ability.
- Noticing shapes in the environment.
- Involving your child in shopping and cooking; reading clocks and traffic signs to understand measurement.
- Setting the table to understand multiples.
- Playing interactive games like 'play live' on Education City.

In addition, there will be opportunities for deeper learning, such as **SOLE projects** (Self-Organised Learning Environment) or **longer-term topic-related projects**.

We believe learning does not stop when a child steps out of the school gate but should be encouraged to seek **opportunities that develop a well-rounded human being**. Ways to improve children's cognitive development, social skills, language acquisition, physical development and the arts at home are:

- Talking/discussing/debating as a family.
- Learning a musical instrument.
- Cooking.
- Take an art class.
- Board games/card games.
- Outdoor problem-solving activities, such as den building or camping.
- Activities to build fine motor skills, such as sewing/knitting, model making, small Lego, construction sets.
- Dressing up and role play.
- Playing for a sports team.
- Brownies/Cubs.
- Dance classes, swimming and other physical activities.
- And so much more...

At Nadeen School, believe that children's evenings and weekends are better filled with activities like these than with formal homework tasks.

Children who are receiving additional learning support or who are new to learning English and are on our ESL programme will always do well to consolidate what they have been learning at school, at home, at times. However, these are usually also the children for whom school is most tiring. We should guard against overloading or overstressing these children but communication between parent and LS/ESL should be sufficient that the parent can help follow up conversation topics or key areas covered. This communication should happen via Dojo or email to parents every week or two weeks, explaining the topics/skills that are being worked on at school at that time, enabling parents to discuss this learning with their children.

All class teachers communicate with parents as a minimum at the start of every 3-week block, via Dojo or email, explaining the big question for the next block, the text to be studied in the English teaching sequence, the areas of maths to be covered and the phonics sounds being covered/spelling rules with some examples. This information can help parents to be part of children's learning journey through discussion, play and opportunities to enhance learning at home.