

Home Learning Support for Parents

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How can you help your child engage in their learning at home?

In her book, *The Power of Inquiry*, Kath Murdoch states, "We are more motivated to learn when we are **genuinely interested and curious** about a subject or when we have **problems to solve**." A powerful way to help learners make connections between their learning and their personal lives or interests is through **reflective thinking**. It can also help them see how they might **transfer their learning** to new contexts which can give their learning purpose. At home you can support your child through a process of reflective thinking by **asking questions**. This may be before, during or after a learning task. It could also be at the end of the day during an informal conversation around the dinner table! Here are some examples of questions to ask that prompt reflective thinking:

- What were you learning today?
- Have you ever done something like this before?
- What are you most proud of today? Why?
- What do you want to strengthen or improve?
- How could you use this new information/skill in other ways?
- What could you do differently next time?
- What did your learning make you think about or wonder?



Kath Murdoch
Take A Moment

"Reflective thinking can help students see the purpose in something they are doing or have done. It connects the student with the meaning behind the learning and therefore increases engagement."

How can we engage students in writing?

Effective teaching of writing reflects what people do in the real world and will follow a sequenced writing process. Students will have higher levels of engagement with writing when they have a specific **personal or social purpose** and when they are given choice over topics. There are 5 steps in the writing process:

1. **Planning and rehearsing:** students generate and sort ideas with a specific purpose and audience in mind,

Home Learning Tip: Encourage your child to use planning templates they are familiar with, such as mind maps or flowcharts. Younger children might draw a picture.

2. **Drafting or composing:** students use their notes from planning to get their ideas down on paper. We don't worry about making mistakes in this stage.

Home Learning Tip: Encourage your child to verbalise each sentence before writing.

3. **Revising:** the revisiting of the text to improve and enhance the writing.

Home Learning Tip: Encourage your child to read their text out loud. Can they add more details to their ideas? Do they need to delete any ideas that are off topic? Can they substitute more interesting words?

4. **Editing and proofreading:** preparing the draft for publication. This includes editing for spelling, text layout, grammar, capitalisation and punctuation.

Home Learning Tip: Encourage your child to make corrections to punctuation, capital letters and spelling using a different coloured pencil or pen.

5. **Publishing:** the preparation of the text for sharing with an audience.

Home Learning Tip: Remind your child to refer back to their revised draft to ensure they are publishing the best version of their work.

How can you provide feedback to your child about their writing?

We want all students to be curious about words and have a positive attitude towards writing. We would encourage you to reread our [article](#) which focused on giving effective feedback and using the *Pause-Prompt-Praise* strategy. We would also encourage you to watch Julie Daniel's [video](#) for some great tips on how to correct your child's writing without overwhelming them.

When your child is attempting to spell a word, encourage them to use the Spelling Tools that have been introduced as part of Write to Read:

- **Sound Check/Chunk Check** - What sounds can you hear?
- **Code Match** - What codes do you know that represent those sounds?
- **Rule Check** - Do you know any rules that will help you choose the right code?
- **Final Check** - Read the word. Have you written what you intended to write?