

Home Learning Support for Parents

By Zoe Picton and Heather Jenkins - Learning Specialists

Welcome to the first in a series of articles to help support you, the parents and carers of our students, during this challenging time of home learning. First of all, on behalf of all the teachers at BPS, we want to say thank you for doing an amazing job supporting your child(ren)!

How can you maintain your child(ren)'s wellbeing as well as your own during home learning?

We understand that many of you are juggling working from home for your own jobs as well as supporting your child(ren) with their home learning. During this time, it is important that you do not put pressure on yourselves or your child(ren) to achieve all the tasks set by your classroom teacher. It is OK if you do not have time to help your child(ren) due to your own work commitments. It is OK if you or your child(ren) do not understand the tasks. It is OK if your child(ren) just want to go and play. Last week, Steve shared an [article](#) which discussed the effects of missing school. According to John Hattie, a leading educator and Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) chairman, students could lose a whole term out of the school year without falling significantly behind. Teachers are very talented at what they do, and they will fill the "holes" when school resumes.

"Find whatever system works for your family and do that."



Nigel Latta

We highly recommend that you watch the [interview](#) between Jacinda Ardern and Nigel Latta, who is a New Zealand psychologist specialising in children and parenting. In the interview, Nigel Latta gives the following tips to parents at this time:

- *Tolerate a bit of chaos*
- *Go easy on yourself*
- *Find whatever system that works for your family and do that*
- *If you are having conflicts and arguments - don't*
- *Break down what you need to do in steps: What can I do now? What can I do this afternoon?*

If you do nothing else... Keep calm and keep reading!

If there is one thing we would request you do with your child(ren), it would be to spend quality time reading a good book aloud. Many of us know the importance of reading aloud to our children when they are young. However, research shows that reading aloud to children right up into their teenage years has many benefits. Reading aloud:

- *Develops a love of reading in children*
- *Models fluent reading*
- *Helps expand children's vocabulary*
- *Exposes children to new authors, texts and genres*
- *Builds awareness and empathy in children*
- *Improves children's long-term reading success*



If you would like more information about reading aloud with your children, we recommend reading Melissa Taylor's article [The Importance of Reading Aloud to Big Kids](#).