

Home Learning Support for Parents: Effective Feedback

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As you continue to find a home learning system that works for your family, you may find it useful to explore the '[Learning from home](#)' website developed by the Victorian Department of Education and Training. A key message from the website is, "No one expects you to be a subject matter expert or teacher. The most important thing you can do is to continue to provide comfort, support and encouragement to your child."

How could morning and afternoon check-ins support your child?

These check-in questions may help your child to process instructions, get organised for the day and reflect on their challenges and successes.

In the morning, ask:

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning targets or goals?
- How will you be spending your time?
- What resources do you need?
- What support do you need?
- Do you need to ask your teacher for help?

In the afternoon, ask:

- What did you learn today?
- What was challenging? How can you solve that problem for tomorrow?
- What went well today? Why were they good?
- Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

How can I help my child when they are stuck on a problem?

You may be familiar with the *Pause-Prompt-Praise* strategy that is often used when children are reading, but it can also help to support your child when they are stuck on any problem.

Pause - Allow yourself and your child time to think about the task. You might reread the instructions, remembering to use a calm, neutral tone.

Prompt - If they are still unsure, provide a brief helpful prompt. Eg. *What do you think you have to do? How could you get started? What do you already know about ? Have you done something like this before?*

Praise - When your child has a go at solving the problem it's important to praise their efforts. This will help build their willingness to tackle similar problems in future. Make sure the praise is specific. Eg. *I like the way you tried to work that out by.... I noticed that...*

What is the difference between praise and feedback?

Research shows that general praise given to students, such as "good girl" or "that's fantastic", may give a small boost to their self esteem but is less effective than purposeful feedback for progressing their learning or developing intrinsic motivation. That's not to say that you shouldn't praise your child, but it is important to be specific with that praise and ensure it relates to the learning task. John Hattie's work on visible learning highlights that feedback has a high impact on student learning. When giving effective feedback:

- Have your child explain the task in their own words: *"Tell me about the task you were doing."*
- Provide them with information about what they are doing well: *"Your writing is engaging because..."*
- Provide feedback based on one aspect of the task and learning intention: *"I noticed that..." "Next time you could..." "This is how I would write that sentence..."*
- Ask questions to promote self assessment: *"How could you strengthen this next time?" "What goal could you set yourself for next time?" "What support will you need?" "I'm wondering..."*
- Avoid using feedback as a way of control or criticism, such as *"You should have..."*

"Feedback has a high impact on student learning."



John Hattie