

MI Home Learning

Dear Families,

The ETPS@Home MI Learner Pack is a suggested plan of how you may be able to support your child's educational learning at home. The learning tasks are designed to be completed with support, while encouraging independence where possible. I offer this resource to you as a guide. I understand and appreciate the different circumstances for each family, and their capacity to support their child's home learning. I encourage families to utilise the resources in your child's Home Learning Pack and Learning Task Boxes, along with any additional resources you have at home. This plan is designed to be flexible due to differing family circumstances and individual student needs.

Five, six and seven year old children need to move often (as you know), so try to provide regular movement breaks. Setting a timer can be helpful, as they can see an end to the time they need to sit. Mix it up by alternating "table-top" activities and movement ones where possible. Use the visual strip schedule provided to schedule movement breaks. Search Brain Breaks on your computer. There are many great action songs with movement on you tube. Jack Hartmann, Learning Station and Go Noodle are favourites of MI.

When writing, it is very important to encourage correct pencil grip and letter formation as per the SA Handwriting tracing charts as included in your take home packs. I have included a range of additional writing resources in the take home packs, which are differentiated based on individual student needs, and whether their focus is pre-writing skills, tracing letters/numbers, copying words or making independent attempts in writing words and sentences. No letters in English start at the bottom. Encourage correct sizing, spacing and use of lines. Even though MI children are in their early stages of writing, it is important to guide them in this.

Read with your child every day. This means you reading aloud to them, with them and having them read to you. Look at the cover. Get them to predict what the story is about. Ask them questions about the text, clarify any new or unfamiliar words. Discuss the characters, the setting the problem and resolution that is in all narratives (stories). Look for sounds and sight words that they are learning in the text. Read library books, home books, story books, information books. Nursery Rhymes are also a valuable source of sight words and develop a sense of rhyme, which is so important for young learners.

Encourage your child to play, make and create every day. Lego, blocks, construction, modelling, playdough, painting, drawing, collage, pastels, threading and puppets to name a few. Children learn so much through play. Life will happen and there will be times that you do not get everything done. This happens at school too and you will need to be flexible. Be guided by your child and their needs.

We are all learners in this together. As teachers, we are upskilling every day in new ways to embrace home learning, particularly with the use of technology such as Seesaw for sharing between home and school. Seesaw will be my preferred method of contact and I encourage you to contact me via Seesaw with any questions or challenges you may be experiencing (If you are wondering about something, it is likely others are too!). Please note that I will still be teaching within the classroom and that I will respond to messages as soon as I am able to.

I wish you the very best of luck with home learning.

Warmest Regards.

Zebedy Hallett

Guide to using the provided Visual Schedule

In your child's Home Learning Pack I have provided a visual strip schedule (long laminated card, with Velcro strip), along with a pink ring-bound bank of visuals. I strongly recommend that you use these resources as the use of a visual schedule will bring structure and predictability to your child's day if they are learning from home. We regularly use visual schedules in the classroom, so your child should already have a good understanding of how they work. Use of the schedule will support your child in knowing what is expected of them and what is coming next. It will promote and increase motivation to complete less desired tasks and provides visual



Visual Strip Schedule Example

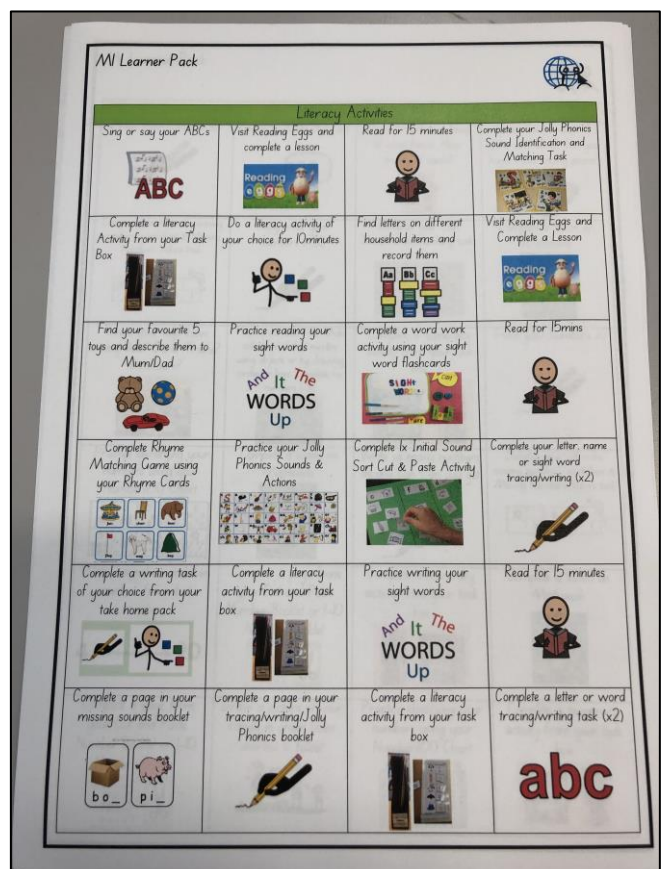
reminders that preferred activities are also scheduled within the day (e.g. a writing task, followed by access to a preferred task such as playing with a favourite toy or some technology time). It is important to structure your child's day with regular opportunities for movement, play, outside time, lunch/recess, technology time, in addition to table-top learning. You will find that you will fit about 8 tasks on the visual strip schedule, so you may start with a morning strip visual set up, and then change visuals to schedule the activities in the middle of the day, followed by changing the visuals again to schedule afternoon activities. The use of a timer is an effective way to let your child know when an activity is coming to an end, and can support successful transitions when completing a preferred activity.



Pink ring-bound bank of visuals

I have organised the pink ring-bound bank of visuals into different sections (General, Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills). The visuals in the Literacy, Numeracy and Life Skills sections use images identical to the pictures used in your MI Home Learner Pack matrix/grids. That way once you have chosen which activities your child will complete as part of their home learning, you can place the corresponding visual on your child's strip visual schedule. The idea is that you use the MI Learner matrix/grids to choose the different learning

activities that your child will complete, with the aim to complete 3 Literacy, 3 Numeracy and 2 Life Skills activities each day (Monday-Friday). Throughout the week your child can complete activities on the grid/matrix more than once. Repeated practice will support your child in retaining what they are learning. Don't forget to break the day up with regular opportunities for play and movement. Only complete table-top learning tasks in short bursts. Adapt each day as required, using general visuals to schedule in other activities throughout the day. The use of the visual schedule will help you plan your day and will support your child in developing a consistent routine for learning at home.



MI Home Learner grid/matrix (Literacy)