

Asking the right kind of questions to support homework.

Do you ask your children lots of questions?
If you are like me, then I'm sure you do. But do you ask the right type of questions?

Questions are a really important way of encouraging children of all ages from EYFS to Y6 to think for themselves. They form an important part of teaching. It is important however to ask the right type of question. The best questions are the ones that do not require a 'yes/no' or a right/wrong type answer, but one that requires thinking about and has lots of possible answers.

If you want to help your child with their homework (or improve their thinking/speaking and listening skills on any topic), try asking some of these questions:

What do you think...?
Why do you think that...?
How do you know that...?
Is there another way...?
What if...?

Homework: Getting Started

What information do you have?
What do you need to find out or do?
What equipment will you need?
What questions will you need to ask?
Can you estimate the answer?
How are you going to record what you are doing?

While children are working

Can you explain what you have done so far?
What do you mean by...? What did you notice when...?
Why did you decide to use this method?
Do you think this would work with other numbers?
Are you beginning to see a pattern or a rule?

Children who are stuck

Can you describe the problem in your own words?
Could you talk me through what you have done so far?
Is there something that you already know that might work?
What about putting things in order?
Have you done one like this before?
Which bit is tricky?
How did you do it at school? How would someone else do it?

After completing the homework task

How did you get your answer?
Can you describe your method to me?
Can you explain why it works?
Can you think of another example that would work with?
What could you try next?
What if you could only use...?
How did you check it?
How would you explain this to someone younger so they could understand?