



# Year 1 Learning at Home Record



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## Welcome to the *Learning at Home Record*

Learning happens all of the time. Not just at school. Not just when we sit at a desk. Learning doesn't stop when children leave the school gates. Learning is **lifelong** and it should be exciting and meaningful! Family life, real life experiences and children's extra activities outside of school contribute greatly to a child's learning and development.

We know that families have busy lives. Parents work and children have many after school commitments. We believe that children should be rewarded for the informal and formal learning they pursue outside of school hours. This is our way of acknowledging the things they do as essential to their healthy overall development as unique individuals.

So the way we do "homework" has changed. We've called our new approach the '*Learning at Home Record*' to reflect these changes.

The *Learning at Home Record* is a different way of looking at homework! Based on an idea developed by Perth educator, Ian Lillico, a leader in the field of 'Boys and Education', it broadens the *traditional* idea of homework. Childhood obesity, reduced quality family time and stress created by homework (for parents as well as children) are modern problems that we are all concerned about. So it is time to re-examine the way we do "homework" and investigate better alternatives. We believe the *Learning at Home Record* is the answer.

The *Learning at Home Record* is about **BALANCE**- a balance between school and home, formal and informal learning, a way to promote the development and understanding of the whole child. The *Learning at Home Record* is also a way that we can keep you informed about what is going on in your child's classroom. Each week we will update you at the top of the *Learning at Home Record* with the events of importance within your child's classroom.

It contains compulsory and optional learning tasks for the week and each of these is explained in greater detail within this information booklet. Because learning opportunities are all around and can happen at any time- breakfast, during family outings, while shopping or when visiting friends and family, cooking, going to the local library or park, we have produced this booklet of suggestions so you can continue to take advantage of those valuable learning opportunities.

Four sections of the grid are compulsory- **School Reading Books, Household Helper, Word Smart and Phonics Fun**- the children must complete these activities each week. Some sections are optional- children may choose to complete these sections, although it is expected that at least **one** optional section be completed each week. So at the end of the week, four compulsory and at least one optional space on the grid should be completed.

Because it is important that learning at home be acknowledged and valued, we will spend time during the week sharing, celebrating and reflecting on these experiences. Children can create a '**Clever Me!**' **on the back of** their *Learning at Home Record* to paste individual projects, drawings, photos, stories etc and we will all celebrate their efforts within the classroom.



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## Be Read To

Spending just 10 minutes a night in a comfortable place, reading to a child, can be a magical and memorable time. It is a time when a child's imagination can leap into action – where they picture places, people and events, where they can allow a story to develop in their minds, and where they can immerse themselves in the language of stories. Through listening to books being read aloud in an expressive tone, children will begin to develop a love of reading and books themselves. A positive attitude to books ignites a lifelong enthusiasm for reading. Children will look forward to each fun-filled reading time, as it not only opens their eyes and imaginations to the world of stories, but also provides an ideal opportunity to bond together to share enjoyable moments in a warm and secure environment.



## Household Helper

We know that having time to be together as a family, helping to keep the house tidy and enjoying meals together is important. So **Household Helper** is a part of the *Learning at Home Record*. It is important that students develop a work ethic, committing to household tasks, and contribute in a meaningful way to family life—helping around the house— to clean and cook, to help with the washing, shopping and various other tasks to help them become responsible household members with valuable life skills. Simply list at least **four household tasks** completed by your child during the week as they practise being a household helper.





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## School Reading Books

We know that you expect children to read on a regular basis. So do we! It is the only way that children can become more confident and fluent, increase their vocabulary and practise using the patterns of written language. Therefore **Reading** is a compulsory part of the *Learning at Home Record*. Each child will have their own individual Home Reading Log (Orange Home Reader) to complete each evening to allow home reading to be monitored and rewarded. It is important to encourage your child to read every day. Home Readers should be brought to school **every day** so that when your child reads at school we can also record monitor and reward progress.



## Word Smart

Your child's class teacher will record key words for your child to learn by sight words in this section of the grid. Use the ideas below to help your child to learn these words. Children should be involved in Word Smart activities at least **four times a week** to ensure students recall these words.

### Key words – ways to learn key words and have some fun:

- Viewing and reading sight words with a partner. Hold up the card, say the word ("the"), **name** the letters and say the word ("T - H - E = the"). Do this three times.
- Matching Games -Write out key word pairs and play a matching game e.g. Memory, word match, snap etc.
- Sentence building - Use key words to make simple sentences. E.g., I like my Dad. Children may also enjoy writing the sentences they make.
- Teacher - Let your child be teacher and allow them to ask you the sight words, pretend you don't know some and make mistakes. Your child has to be actively involved in looking at the words themselves and helping you correct your errors.
- Spot the Key word - When reading to your child or when your child is reading ask them to identify any key words in the story. Match them with the sight word cards.
- Key Word Hunt – Find sight words in print (magazines, brochures, newspapers, catalogues) Cut them out and paste them into your home learning books.





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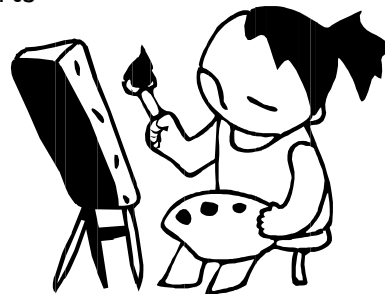
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## Culture Smart

This section of the *Learning at Home Record* aims to develop an early interest and appreciation of a broad range of the Arts-visual arts, dance, drama and music. It covers experiences ranging from passive listening to various styles and composers of music on tapes or CDs and looking at works of art in books, through to actual attendance at concerts, live performances and galleries. This task recognises the many and varied cultural activities that students are already involved in outside of school hours.

Examples of cultural activities children may possibly participate in include:

- Dance and drama classes
- Choir practise
- Band practise
- Music lessons and practise (piano, violin, drums, trumpet, etc.)
- Craft work
- Painting and art classes
- Visits to museums, drama performances, art galleries, libraries, theatres and concerts





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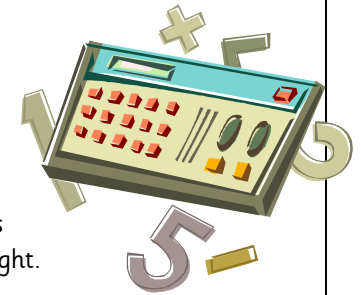


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## Maths Smart

Maths is all around us. Just about every occasion or event can be linked to Maths. Here are some ideas for getting you started:

- Estimate and count how many steps to the letter box from the door, compare with Mum and Dad's – How many more, how many less?
- Count how many lights in the house – How many more/ less than the number of switches?
- Measure out ingredients for cooking – weight, volume
- Set the table with one plate, knife, fork and cup for each person in the family
- Find different 3D shapes in the cupboard and fridge – cans, boxes, ice-cream cones, oranges/ apples
- Estimate and check how many cans in the kitchen, sort into groups
- Name the shapes found in tiles in the kitchen or bathroom, draw the pattern
- Add the digits in your phone number and other people's phone numbers
- Find and record friend's and family's birthdays on a calendar
- Share portions of food evenly among the family – e.g. cutting a cake, sharing lollies
- Practise Number Facts or Number Patterns on the way to school
- Put the numbers of free to air channels in order, add them together
- Count how many pairs of socks, work out how many altogether, count how many shoes, how many more/less?
- What can you do in one minute? E.g., can you walk around the house?
- Measure how many hand-spans long is your bed, how many wide, work out the difference, measure using feet
- Name the days of week and months of the year
- Count how many letters in the days of the week and add them together, which day has the most letters in its name?
- Add up the digits on your car's number plate
- Add up the digits showing on the odometer, look at and say the numbers on the speedometer
- Count your toys and group them by the way they look or feel
- Read aloud the page numbers of a big book
- Make a shopping list of items that are almost empty in the fridge
- Find things that are taller/shorter/thinner/about the same height as you.
- Draw your family standing in a line, in order from shortest to tallest. Write 'me' under the picture of yourself.
- Count all the doors in your home.
- Find a pair of shoes from every member of the family. Put them in order from largest to smallest.
- Set the table for dinner, then count the cutlery.
- Take a box of junk and sort it.
- Add up coins in a purse or wallet
- Estimate and weigh items in the kitchen
- Count how many commercials during a T.V. program
- Read and record the time on digital and analogue clocks
- Choose 5 items in the food cupboard and order their weight.
- How many times can you fold a sheet of paper?
- Group all the spoons in the cutlery draw. Count how many teaspoons, dessertspoons, tablespoons. Which spoon is the longest?
- Find things that have a circle/rectangle/triangle/square shape on them.
- Find things at home that are a 'can' shape/'ball' shape/'box' shape
- Draw some things in your home that have numbers written on them.
- Sort the coins in a purse. How many are there of each value
- Observe what's left and right when you're sitting at the dinner table, in a car, riding a bike. Which direction are you turning?
- Count how many chairs around the dinner table. How many legs?
- Pretend you are a spider looking down from the ceiling of your bedroom. Draw a picture of what you would see.
- Find a plastic jug and a plastic cup. How many cups of water will it take to fill the jug? What about a bucket?
- Measure heel to toe different areas of your home –length of bedroom, garden, lounge.
- Find 5 cups the same size. Fill each with a different thing – water, rice, flour, cotton balls, sand etc. Which cup is the heaviest?
- Draw a picture of your family standing in a line from youngest to oldest. Write age of each person. Is the oldest the tallest?
- Write down the numbers on the houses in your street. Is there a pattern
- Find a colourful picture in a magazine. Cut it out and cut it into pieces. Mix the pieces and put your jigsaw puzzle back together.
- Find twenty things and put them in a row. Count them and draw the thing in the 8<sup>th</sup> place etc.
- Count the buttons on your clothes. Which item of clothing has the most buttons?
- Trace around one of your shoes. Cover the shoe with buttons or coins. Compare with mum or dads shoe.





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## Physical Activity

Physical activity is important for the healthy development of all children. With childhood obesity at critical levels, it is important the children have opportunities to run and play in fresh air. Some physical activities that your child may be involved in include:

- Organised sports practise- tennis, AFL, football, soccer, basketball
- Swimming lessons or swimming club, Gymnastics or athletics
- Dance lessons and dance practise
- Scouts, camping
- Going to the park
- Family games and outdoor activities
- Trampolining, jumping rope, running or ball games
- Martial Arts training
- Riding a bike at a park or on a bike track
- Completing an obstacle course or bush walking



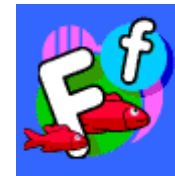
## Phonics Fun

Each week your child’s class teacher will enter a task in this section of the *Learning at Home Record*. Some of the Sound activities that will involve your child in practising new letter sounds include:

- Find pictures in magazines or draw pictures beginning with the letter \_\_\_\_\_. (Parents could help by labelling pictures and discussing the sound the first letter makes in each word.)
- Play games sent home by teacher .e.g. Matching sound/letter to pictures, matching capital letters with lower case.
- Use letters/sounds to make words and read them with a parent.
- Look at letter patterns e.g. Sat, cat, bat etc. Make a word slide

E.g.  
B  
C  
R  
H  
M

at (Slide the “at” up and down to make new words)





# Year 1 Learning at Home Record



## You Choose!

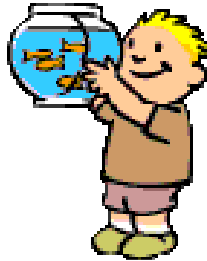
The final section of the *Learning at Home Record* is called 'You Choose!' Many will be activities that the children themselves initiate- playing a family game, putting on a magic or puppet show, writing their own story, taking photos on a family excursion, writing a rap song, all those wonderful things that students choose to do when they are feeling creative. To help stimulate other ideas we have provided some suggestions below:

### Care for a pet

Caring for a pet is an important activity that helps children to develop the responsibility of caring for something other than him or herself. There are a number of tasks that a child should be involved in when caring for the family pet:



- Feed your pet
- Fill the water bowl
- Give your pet a bath
- Groom your pet
- Clean food bowls, cages or tanks
- Take your pet to the vet
- Play with your pet
- Take your pet for a walk or give your pet some other exercise



### Play a game

This fun activity needs to be enjoyed with an adult and is valuable to develop communication, co-operation and patience. The game can be played indoors or outdoors and needs to be played fairly, following agreed rules and procedures. The focus is on the enjoyment of participation, rather than winning, Games include soccer, touch football, cricket, a board game or a card game.





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## Shopping

Shopping is an incredibly rich and exciting opportunity for discussion, problem solving and learning. Below are a few suggestions for how to harness the learning opportunities presented in a family trip to the shops:

- Talk to your child about shopping and the need for money and change
- Explain the layout of supermarkets- isles, checkout, deli, bakery etc.
- Read the signs hanging around the shops
- Read and compare the prices of various items
- Allow your child to play with and count your money. Describe the different coins- compare the sizes, shapes and colours
- Ask your child to make certain amounts with the money e.g. 20 cents- what different combination of coins can be used?
- Encourage them to mentally work out the change they will receive
- Encourage your child to mentally compute multiple items, e.g. 3 kiwi fruits at 25 cents each
- Read shopping catalogues at home and decide what you would like to purchase
- Play "I Spy" using prices as a guide, e.g. I spy with my little eye something worth £2.99
- Allow your child to pick and pack the fruit and veggies, e.g. find me four big oranges

## Gardening

Many children love being outside and playing in the garden. You can make the most of their energy and enthusiasm in the great outdoors by encouraging them to assist with gardening duties. Helping with gardening can provide bonding opportunities for you and the child, and enhance a child's ability to:

- Care for living things
- Learn about ongoing responsibilities
- Develop an appreciation of nature
- Learn about the needs of living things
- Develop an understanding of life cycles
- Develop creativity and an appreciation for aesthetics

Gardening can take place in large backyards, small backyards, in vegetable gardens, and even just in planter boxes and plant pots. To encourage a child's enthusiasm for gardening, plant seeds that mature quickly. Children will feel a sense of responsibility and accomplishment.



## Use the Computer

Computer skills are essential for boys and girls in their future working life and leisure pursuits. There has been much media attention paid to the impact of computers on children over recent years. Many quote studies that link violent actions in children to violence in computer games, and most are alarmist in nature. **Short** amounts of time spent on the computer can actually be quite valuable for students, helping to develop important skills for the future. In fact, the biggest growth area for new jobs is within the IT industry. Children will have had to master various computer skills by high school and university as the majority of work is completed this way. It is essential that students develop computer skills like searching the internet for information, having experience using a variety of software applications like Word, PowerPoint and Publisher, and practise hand-eye coordination within educational computer games. Some activities might include:

- Typing and printing a letter to a friend or family member
- Typing a story, poem or shopping list
- Designing and printing a card or invitation for a special occasion
- Playing a math or word game to help practise skills
- Playing an interactive computer game like RollerCoaster Tycoon
- Sending an email to a relative
- Visiting a website to find information or play a simple game
- Designing a simple webpage
- Typing up key words - (e.g. making a Wordsearch using a simple table)
- Using 'Paint' to draw a picture
- Making a slideshow of family holiday snaps (digital) using PowerPoint
- Taking and saving digital photos
- Use 'MovieMaker' to manipulate digital holiday video





# Year 1 Learning at Home Record



## Talking Time

We talk to lots of different people every day. People who know you like to hear about all the interesting things you do. Don't forget to listen to their great stories too!

### *Visiting Friends and Family*

- Play the shopping game, (I went shopping and I bought...), I spy etc in the car
- Talk to your parents/carers about your day after dinner or in the car
- Have some playtime or a sleepover at a friend's or relative's house
- Visit the museum/city and discuss all of the interesting things you discovered
- Go to the park or for a walk and share stories
- Talk to your neighbour
- Go to a movie or show



### *Make a phone call (with your parent's permission)*

- Telephone a friend or family member for their birthday or a special occasion that your family celebrates
- Telephone to say thank you to someone who has done something nice for you
- Telephone Mum or Dad or your Grandparents at work/home
- Telephone a friend/relative just to say hello and let them know all about your day
- Telephone a friend/relative to invite them to join you for a special occasion



## Cooking

Allowing children to help prepare meals and snacks in the kitchen can be a wonderful learning opportunity for them. Here are a few of the benefits:



- They are experiencing hands-on mathematical concepts and learning to use mathematical language, such as counting out ingredients, measuring and weighing items, dividing or doubling quantities, and estimating amounts.
- They are required to become familiar with following the step-by-step directions in a recipe, improving reading skills.
- With increased exposure to recipe formats, children will find it easier to write their own recipes.
- They can begin to learn about the scientific concepts of physical and chemical reactions.
- They can improve their fine motor skills through cutting, chopping, measuring, pinching, rolling, opening and closing jars and containers, and stirring mixtures.
- They develop organizational and time management skills.
- They can discuss health and safety practices.
- They can become familiar with responsible hygiene practices, such as the importance of washing hands before preparing food.
- They can begin to learn about healthy eating and nutrition.
- Cooking teaches children some basic life skills and kitchen techniques that they will retain for the rest of their lives.

By including children in meal planning, shopping, preparation, and clean up, they may feel they have some ownership over the meal, and therefore, are more likely to try new tastes and textures! Cooking also provides an ideal opportunity to spend time together, working as part of a team.