11 Things You Can Do To Help Your Child Learn At Home

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.

- As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
- Provide specific praise that focuses on a particular aspect of their work. Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "You're clever!".

2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible.

3. Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings.

- Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.

4. Make use of your local library.

- Look out for special events and services for children.

5. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting.

- Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries. Blue Peter badge holders also have free access to hundreds of places!

6. Learn times tables: The requirement from the National Curriculum, is that all children are fluent with their times tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4.

The suggested order to learn them is 2x, 10x, 5x, then 4x and 8x (as double 2 and then double 4). The next three to learn, as they are related, are the 3x, 6x and 9x tables. 7x table is next – and it is suggested that these all should be learnt by the end of Year 3. That leaves the 11x and 12x table for Year 4.

Children will need repetition until they are secure and able to apply their tables to the fraction work and greater challenges of Year 5 and Year 6, where knowing your times tables inside out is key.

7. Try to set time aside to do "homework" activities with young children.

8. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework away from distractions (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).

9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers and explaining the task to you and the strategies they have learned in school to do it.

10. If your children like watching television, watch it with them sometimes and encourage them to talk about what they have seen. They will get more out of the experience.

11. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework.