

## Educational website: Study Ladder

As an optional addition to the homework set by teachers all students at Moranbah East will be able to access the Australian educational website Study Ladder that includes both mathematical and literacy activities.

It is NOT compulsory for your child to log onto Study Ladder from home, however, this website provides a fantastic opportunity for children to consolidate and extend their classroom learning. The warm-up challenges are good interaction activities for parents and their children.

For free home access:

- ⇒ Go to [www.studyladder.com.au](http://www.studyladder.com.au)
- ⇒ Sign in with the class username and password given to your child.
- ⇒ Access activities from your child's overview page.



## How can you help your children to learn?

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- ⇒ reading to them, talking with them and involving them in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and physical activity
- ⇒ helping them complete homework tasks by discussing key questions, or directing them to resources
- ⇒ encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning and organisation of time
- ⇒ encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- ⇒ helping them balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport and engaging in other recreational activities,
- ⇒ contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework.

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## HOMWORK POLICY

Education Queensland's *Homework in State Schools* policy sets out guidelines for homework, including the amount of time students should spend on homework each week.

The policy recommends the following maximum homework hours over a week:

In the **Prep Year**, generally students will not be set homework.

**Years 1-3:** Could be up to but generally not more than 1 hour per week.

**Years 4-5:** Could be up to but generally not more than 2-3 hours per week.

**Years 6-7:** Could be up to but generally not more than 3-4 hours per week.

## **Balance between family life and consolidating classroom learning**

Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, prepare for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

Homework that enhances student learning:

- ⇒ is purposeful and relevant to students' needs
- ⇒ is appropriate to the phase of learning (early or middle – see suggestions over page)
- ⇒ is appropriate to the capability of the student
- ⇒ develops the student's independence as a learner
- ⇒ is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- ⇒ allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family and cultural activities.

## **Enhancing classroom learning**

Homework can engage students in independent learning to complement work undertaken in class through:

- ⇒ revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning (practising for mastery)
- ⇒ applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue)
- ⇒ pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- ⇒ preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials, items, information).

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

- ⇒ being aware of the school's homework policy
- ⇒ discussing homework expectations with their parents or caregivers
- ⇒ accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set timeframes
- ⇒ following up on comments made by teachers
- ⇒ seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- ⇒ organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities.

## **Phases of Learning**

### **Early Phase of Learning (Prep to Year 3)**

In the Early Phase of Learning all activities at home or in play can assist children to develop literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Homework tasks may include:

- ⇒ daily reading to, with, and by parents, caregivers or other family members
- ⇒ linking concepts with familiar activities such as shopping, preparation of food, local environment and family outings
- ⇒ conversations about what is happening at school
- ⇒ preparation for oral presentations
- ⇒ opportunities to write for meaningful purposes.

### **Middle Phase (Years 4 to 9)**

In the Middle Phase some homework can be completed daily, over a weekly or fortnightly period and may:

- ⇒ include daily independent reading
  - ⇒ be coordinated across different subject areas, for example setting a task such as writing a letter (English) to the local member of parliament (Civics) about a local environmental matter (Science)
  - ⇒ include extension of class work, projects and research.
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