

**For Parents/Carers**

# Working Together!

Aged 5+



**As a parent/carers, you have the skills needed to support and encourage your child to learn, achieve and get the best out of their school experience.**

**Online as part of this pack you will find:**

- ★ a **chatterbox** to make – full of activities!
- ★ a **card game** with ideas and questions to ask your children about school and what they are learning
- ★ a **bookmark** for your child to colour in and keep
- ★ a handy **wallchart** and stickers to help you record and reward your child's learning progress month by month

## **Top Tips**

- ★ Check for information about your child's progress in your child's homework diary or exercise book
- ★ Encourage your child to give it a go even if it seems difficult
- ★ Provide a comfortable space to talk and work
- ★ Do exercises in little steps – a bit at a time
- ★ Ask other family members to help and encourage your child to learn
- ★ Make learning fun, play games and laugh at your mistakes!
- ★ Show you are interested and ask questions

## ★ Celebrating Achievement ★

It's always a good idea to reward your child's progress (e.g. getting their homework done on time), and it doesn't have to cost lots of money! You could...

- ★ let your child pick what film you're going to watch as a family
- ★ let them play their favourite game
- ★ make special time to have fun together

### Useful Websites

For more advice and information visit:

- ★ [www.bbc.co.uk/learning](http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning)
- ★ [www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools)
- ★ [www.channel4learning.com](http://www.channel4learning.com)
- ★ [www.dads-space.com](http://www.dads-space.com)
- ★ [www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum](http://www.direct.gov.uk/curriculum)
- ★ [www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning)
- ★ [www.direct.gov.uk/kids](http://www.direct.gov.uk/kids)
- ★ [www.fostering.org.uk](http://www.fostering.org.uk)
- ★ [www.netmums.com](http://www.netmums.com)
- ★ [www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/At-Home](http://www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk/At-Home)
- ★ [www.parentchannel.tv](http://www.parentchannel.tv)
- ★ [www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

This is by no means an exhaustive list and has been produced to offer a flavour of the types of resources available.

Your school may have other resources available for you to use, or you could get them from their website. (DCSF cannot be held responsible for any existing or future content on any of the above websites.)

★ You can also get information from your local library  
or why not talk to other parents, friends and family about  
helping your child with their learning.

To print off copies of this document  
and other resources please visit:  
[www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport](http://www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport)

# Let's Talk About School Today...



Questions you can use to talk to your children  
about school and their learning

## What's this about?

These cards are to help you talk to your children about school and their learning.  
So ask your child to pick a card, read out the question and get talking!

**Card Instructions:** Print these cards out on your printer, cut them out (you will have 24 cards)  
and then get talking!

**What was most  
fun at school  
today?**

**What made you  
laugh today?**

**What is your  
favourite thing  
to do at home?**

**Tell me something  
about your  
favourite animal**

Cut along dotted line

**What's your  
favourite thing  
about school?**

**Is there  
anything you  
don't understand  
at school?  
What is it?**

**Have you helped  
someone recently?  
What did you do?**

**What games did  
you play today?**

**Who is your  
favourite teacher  
and why?**

**What's hard  
for you at  
school at the  
moment?**

**Describe  
something you've  
eaten today at  
school**

**Tell me about one  
thing you have done  
at school today that  
you feel proud of**

**What has  
made you sad  
recently?**

**If you had a  
wish, what  
would it be?**

**WILD CARD**

Mum/Dad....  
**WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?**

**WILD CARD**

Mum/Dad...  
**WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?**

1. What happened?  
2. Who did you meet?  
3. What did you talk about?

**What do you want to be when you are older?**

**What's easy for you at school at the moment?**

**Tell me about something that you are good at**

**Make up your own question**

**Make up your own question**

**Listening Skills**

**listen**

**Why is listening important?**

- Being a good listener is important in your relationship with your child
- Listening tells your child they are important to you
- Listening shows you want your child to share their feelings with you

**Talking Together**

**Conversation**

**Why is talking important?**

- Your child will enjoy sharing their ideas, thoughts and views with you
- It helps to bring any worries, fears or concerns your child may have out into the open

**Asking the right questions**

**questions**

**Why are they important?**

- Ask questions that lead to conversations
- Avoid questions that lead to a 'yes' or 'no' answer
- Try to find out what school work is about so that you can ask questions that will help your child to solve problems themselves

# Star Learner

This wallchart is for you to put up at home so that you and your child can see how much progress you're making as a learning team.



Use this chart to set goals at the beginning of each week (perhaps agree a number of stars to aim for each month) and agree a treat once these goals have been achieved.

Example: **WEEK 1 - Achievement**

GOAL:



Colour in the Star with your favourite colour when this task is complete.  
Treats could include: trips to the park, favourite games, time together doing an activity such as playing football, dancing, etc...



## JANUARY

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Remember to give praise



## FEBRUARY

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Set goals and give rewards



## MARCH

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Listen and ask questions





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**APRIL**

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**MAY**

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**JUNE**

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**TOTAL STARS GAINED =**

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Find a quiet space for homework



**TOTAL STARS GAINED =**

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Be positive about learning



**TOTAL STARS GAINED =**

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Let them know they are doing well



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## JULY

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Remember to give praise



## AUGUST

(LEARNING DURING THE HOLIDAYS)

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOMEWORK TIP**

Set goals and give rewards



## SEPTEMBER

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



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**HOMEWORK TIP**

Listen and ask questions





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## OCTOBER

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOMEWORK TIP

Find a quiet space for homework



## NOVEMBER

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOMEWORK TIP

Be positive about learning



## DECEMBER

**WEEK 1 - Achievement**

Colour in your Star

GOAL:



**WEEK 2 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 3 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 4 - Achievement**

GOAL:



**WEEK 5 - Achievement**

GOAL:



TOTAL STARS GAINED =

GOAL: (No. of stars) \_\_\_\_\_

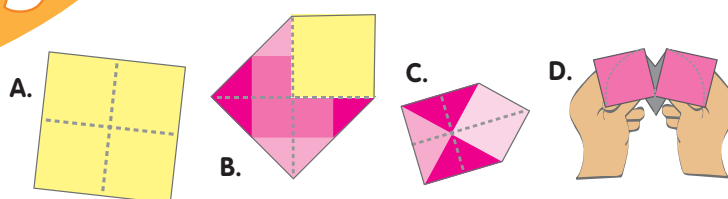
TREAT: \_\_\_\_\_

### HOMEWORK TIP

Let them know they are doing well



# Doing and Learning



## How To Make The Chatterbox

- Print off page Two and cut around the dotted line with some scissors. With the blank side facing up, fold Chatterbox in half and unfold. Fold in half the other way and unfold. The fold lines will create four equal squares.
- Fold the 4 corners into the centre to make a smaller square.
- Turn the Chatterbox over and fold the 4 corners of the smaller square into the centre to make a smaller square. There should now be 8 colours pointing to the middle of the Chatterbox.
- Put your thumbs and the first fingers of each hand in the 4 pockets underneath and bring all 4 corners to the middle. The Chatterbox should now look like a square cone with 4 moveable sides: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. You should now be able to move the sides and are ready to play!

## How To Use The Chatterbox

Ask your child to pick a number between 1 and 8. Move fingers back and forward as you count out the chosen number. Open up the Chatterbox so that you can see the colours – ask your child to pick a colour from the 4 choices available.

Open the flap to ask your child the question underneath their chosen colour.

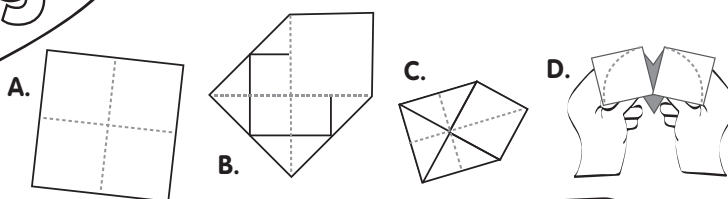
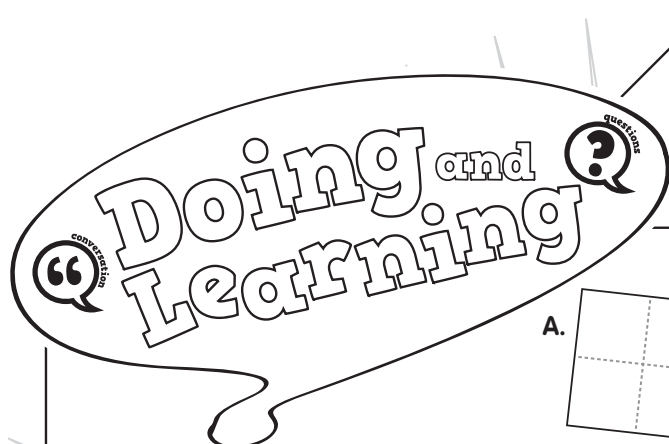
**You could make your own Chatterbox together using new colours and questions.**

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[www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport](http://www.direct.gov.uk/homeworksupport)

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cut along dotted line & keep





### **How To Make The Chatterbox**

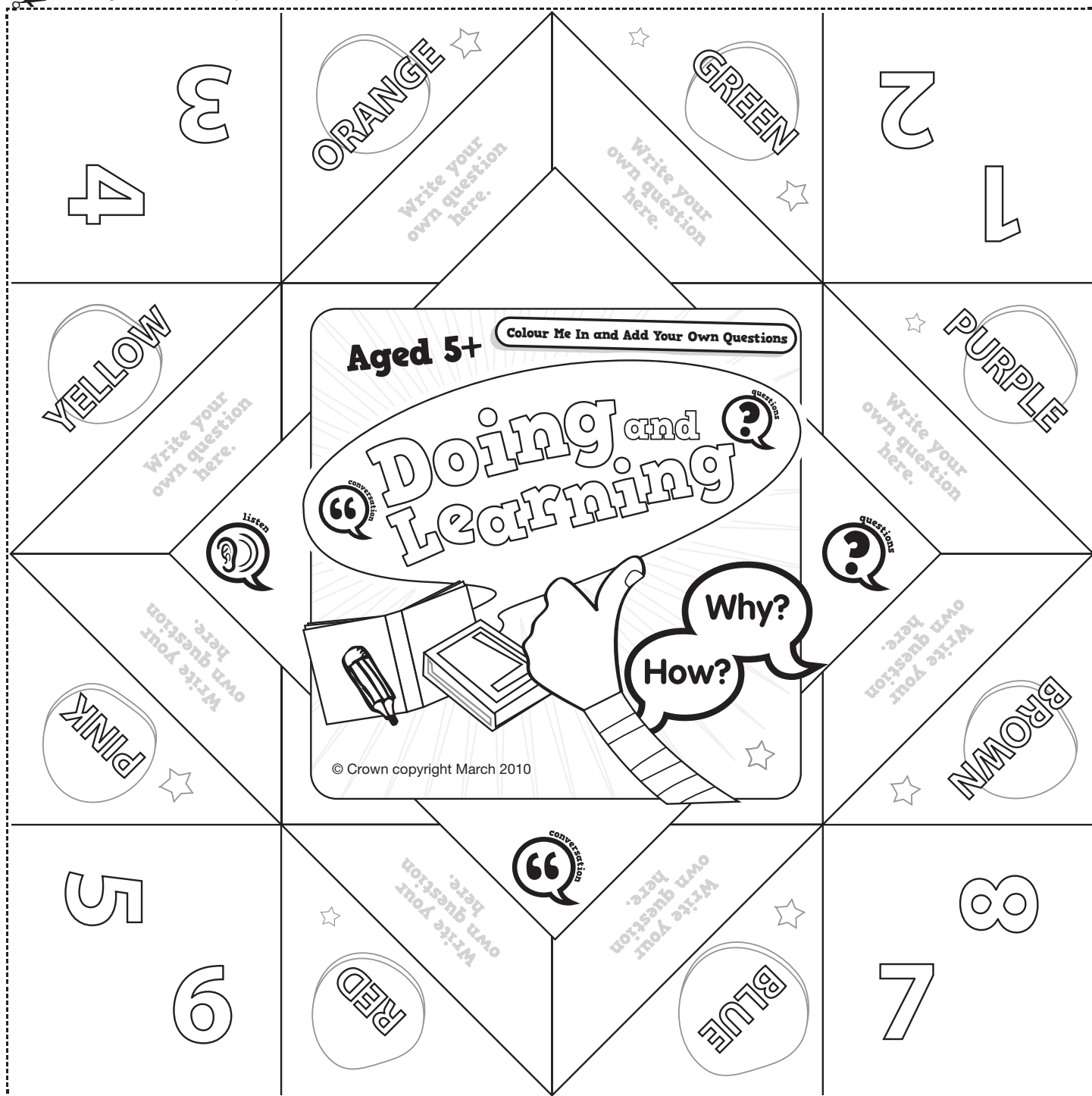
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cut along dotted line & keep



**Let's read together...bookmark**

Ask your child to colour in this bookmark with their favourite colours

fold line

**Let's read together...  
bookmark**

**Let's read together...  
bookmark**

What would your favourite character do next?

cut along dotted line & keep

Reading together lets your child know you are interested in what they are finding out.



**Instructions to make your bookmark:** fold the page in half and stick the blank reverse sides together

To print off copies of this document and other resources please visit:  
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Ask questions about what's happened in the story or ask your child to imagine what might happen next to their favourite character.

cut along dotted line & keep

**Let's read together...bookmark**

Ask your child about the book they are reading to start conversations.

fold line

**Reading together can be FUN!**

Can you think of a new ending for the story?

My name is:

Let's read together!  
Once upon a time...

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Ask your child to tell you something about the book.



Let your child choose a book and set time aside to read together.