Top Tips for Positive Home Learning
Support for children at home with SEMH needs

Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children
What we say and do in our daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

In addition, by showing interest in their children's education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding—that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required.

Monitor your child’s television, video game, and Internet use
Most children on average spend far more time watching TV, playing video games and using the Internet than they do completing homework or other school-related activities. Do you know what your child is doing online? Are the games they're playing age-appropriate?

Encourage your child to read
Helping your child become a reader is the single most important thing that you can do to help the child to succeed in school—and in life. The importance of reading simply can't be overstated. Reading helps children in all school subjects. More important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

Talk with your child
Talking and listening play major roles in children's school success. It's through hearing parents and family members talk and through responding to that talk that young children begin to pick up the language skills they will need if they are to do well. For example, children who don't hear a lot of talk and who aren't encouraged to talk themselves often have problems learning to read, which can lead to other school problems. In addition,
children who haven’t learned to listen carefully often have trouble following directions and paying attention in class. It’s also important for you to show your child that you’re interested in what he has to say.

Watch a TV programme together then have a chat about it. Get your child to provide a running commentary whilst you do everyday tasks, such as housework. In short, just get them talking.

**Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently**
Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success. You can help your child to develop these qualities by establishing reasonable rules that you enforce consistently, making it clear to your child that he has to take responsibility for what he does. Show your child how to break a job down into small steps. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. To promote active learning, listen to your child’s ideas and respond to them. Let him jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together. When you encourage this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

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