

Frequently raised concern:

1. My child is not interested in the home learning task

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Top tips:

1. **Make a deal** - find out how they are feeling, name it, affirm it, make a deal - e.g. “I’m sorry you’re not feeling frustrated and not in the mood today, it’s ok to feel that way, sometimes I feel that way too! I can make you a deal - why don’t you keep playing for 10 more minutes and then we’ll do 30 minutes of work? Then you can have another break?”



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Top tips: 2. **Big picture context - WHY**



Find out **how** your child is feeling, name it, affirm it, talk about the BIG PICTURE and WHY we work on knowledge and skills in school for life - e.g. “I’m sorry you’re feeling sad and not in the mood today, it’s ok to feel that way, sometimes I feel that way too! Your teacher has posted a spelling task today. Do you know why it’s important to work on spelling? So we can learn how to read and write words. We need to do this to help us write letters to grandma, and postcards when we’re on holiday to friends, and enjoy books that famous authors write for us! So, let’s work a little bit on our spelling skills to help us learn to read and write everything we might want to...”

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Top tip: 3. Put a 'positive spin' on how interesting it is! You may be surprised about how engaged or interested a child can become towards a topic or activity when positive language is modelled and associated with the topic or task! You may even want to add a little bit of role play to your enthusiasm for extra positivity...



e.g. “WOW your teacher has posted an activity about bridges today! Bridges are really important aren't they? Do you know some reasons why? Or how they're made? Or how they stand up?? I have lots of questions about bridges. Maybe we could find out more? **MAYBE** we could even build **OUR OWN** bridge with different materials we've got in the kitchen cupboards and see if it can stand up on its own?! Or hold a toy car?? Let's see what today's task is all about first...”

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Top tips: 4. Change the activity E.g. - your child doesn't seem in the mood to do

much writing today...can you suggest they sketch out a plan for their writing with just key words instead and do writing in sentences tomorrow? (Top Tip 1 Make a Deal)

E.g. - your child doesn't want to write multiplication sums out neatly in a jotter today...can you suggest they play a multiplication board game (see weblinks for some game ideas or print outs) instead?

<https://broomhill.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Multiplication-strategies-and-games.pdf>

<https://broomhill.aberdeen.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Four-in-a-row-games-23456.pdf>

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Top tips: 4. Change the activity continued E.g. - your child doesn't seem in the

mood to do much writing today...can you video them on a smartphone verbally telling their story with teddies or toys? And they make a deal to write it tomorrow?



E.g. - your child doesn't want to learn how to spell their list of spelling words today... can they spell them by playing hangman? Or spell their words by playing noughts and crosses, or bingo or a spelling word picture clue hunt around the house/garden? Or spell their words in sand or mud in the garden? Or in a plate using old out of date spices from the cupboard??

If your child is able to work on the skill that day - GREAT! It does not matter so much WHAT activity they do - working on the skill or concept is most important, after emotional wellbeing :)