

Learning Skills & Work Habits



The Ministry of Education emphasizes the significance of developing learning skills and work habits in our children. It is expected that teachers will work with students and their parents to ensure that they understand learning skills and work habits and their importance.

The development of learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and in life begins early in a child's schooling. As students move through the grades, they develop and then consolidate their learning skills and work habits in preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work.

Strong learning skills and positive work habits are often an indicator of future success in school, at home, and in life in general. Learning skills and work habits will look different in individuals as they grow and mature.

The following are sample behaviours which are designed to help identify strengths and support growth of those learning skills and work habits.

Responsibility

Consider how well your child:

- Fulfills commitments in learning environments;
- Completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed upon timelines; and
- Manages his/her behaviour.

Independent Work

Consider how well your child:

- Monitors, assesses, and revises plans to
- Complete tasks and meet goals;
- Uses class time appropriately to complete tasks; and
- Follows instructions with minimal supervision.

Collaboration

Consider how well your child:

- Accepts various roles and an equitable share of the work within a group;
- Responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others;
- Builds healthy peer relationships;
- Works with others to resolve conflicts and builds consensus to achieve group goals; and
- Shares information, resources, and expertise to solve problems and make decisions.

Organization

Consider how well your child:

- Creates and follows a plan to complete work and tasks;
- Establishes priorities and manages time to achieve goals; and
- Gathers, evaluates and uses information, technology and resources to complete tasks.

Initiative

Consider how well your child:

- Acts upon new ideas and opportunities for learning;
- Demonstrates a willingness to take risks;
- Demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning;
- Approaches new tasks with a positive attitude; and
- Recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.

Self-Regulation

Consider how well your child:

- Sets his/her individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them;
- Seeks assistance when needed;
- Assesses and reflects critically on her/his strengths, needs and interests;
- Identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals; and
- Perseveres when facing challenges.

Parents, children and teachers are important partners in the learning and assessment process. Therefore it is crucial that we all understand these learning skills and what they signify.
