



Managing the teaching of Primary English



PARENTAL SUPPORT

English is one of the core subjects in the National Curriculum for England. The subject is a vital area of learning which equips children with the communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening that they will need in adult life.

Therefore, we promote English on our Wolsey Hall courses as needing that bit more time than other subjects.

We understand that this can be a challenge when working out how to fit English in within your week, so we have put together some ideas to encourage flexibility and creativity when teaching and learning English at home!

Tip/Idea	How do I do this?	Benefits for students and parents
<p>Split up lessons into 'chunks' and have breaks.</p>	<p>A good lesson should have breaks built in. These could be every 10 minutes, or when there is a different focus, e.g. moving from the spelling task to the reading task.</p> <p>To do this, plan with your student when you might take breaks, e.g. after the spelling session; how long the breaks will be for, e.g. 5-10 mins; and what can be done in the breaks, e.g. get a drink, play outside.</p> <p>Enrol with Get Active and Be Mindful for support with brain break activities.</p> <p>Other brain breaks ideas: 37 Quick & Easy Brain Breaks for Kids Prodigy Education (prodigygame.com)</p>	<p>It is proven that we can concentrate for longer when we have breaks.</p> <p>Breaks can give time for both the student and parent to reflect on the lesson.</p> <p>Our brains need chance to relax in order to work again!</p>
<p>Flexible approach to lessons.</p>	<p>You know your child and where they are in their knowledge and understanding. The lessons are designed to cover as much as possible. Therefore, if you know that your child already knows some aspects, or demonstrates understanding quickly, you may choose to spend less time on that particular task and move on to the next section of the lesson.</p>	<p>Giving parents control of the learning. As the learning facilitator, you can adapt a lesson, the speed, or the approach to suit your child and home situation.</p>

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<p>Look for opportunities to teach and learn English 'fluidly' throughout the day/week.</p>	<p>English is a life skill and doesn't stop when the English lesson is over!</p> <p>Spellings can be practiced in the car on a long journey or when doing washing up!</p> <p>Reading for pleasure is so important: this should be encouraged at any time. Have a challenge to find interesting and unusual places to read, e.g. create a reading 'den', read on the trampoline, on the swing, on the toilet!</p> <p>Read for different purposes, e.g. find out five interesting facts about where you are going on holiday this year; read the instructions in a recipe to help make dinner; read about your favourite celebrity and create a fact file.</p>	<p>Students see the value of English not just in lessons but in everyday life.</p> <p>Lesson content is spread out, so lessons are not too long.</p>
<p>Move spelling and reading to other times of the day/week.</p>	<p>Set times could be given to spelling and/or reading.</p> <p>Agree a time in the day when spelling and/or reading is done, e.g. first thing in the morning; at 9:00am; just before or after lunch.</p>	<p>A routine often works well because the student knows what is expected, and children often like the reliability of a timetable.</p> <p>The extra time given 'outside' of the English lesson means that the actual English lesson can be shorter.</p>

Tip/Idea	How do I do this?	Benefits for students and parents
<p>Take it in turns to do writing.</p>	<p>Writing tasks can be challenging, as there is often a lot of skills to apply, e.g. spelling, punctuation, handwriting, ideas.</p> <p>Taking it in turns is an effective way of approaching the writing task, especially when doing the first draft.</p> <p>The parent can write the introduction, the student then needs to write the next paragraph. The parent starts the next paragraph for the student to continue, etc.</p> <p>There are many different variations of the above. E.g. for younger children, you could take it in turns to write a word each in the sentence.</p> <p>Try being a fill-time scribe for your child sometimes. Ask your child to verbally tell you what they would like to write, and you write it for them.</p> <p>(If you have inputted into the writing for an Assignment, please state this when you submit it to your tutor).</p>	<p>The student sees good ideas coming from the parent, and the parent is able to model good spelling, thinking, use of punctuation, etc.</p> <p>The student is less likely to feel overwhelmed by the writing task.</p> <p>Sharing ideas when taking it in turns can lead to great things!</p>

Tip/Idea	How do I do this?	Benefits for students and parents
<p>Shared reading.</p>	<p>If your child finds reading difficult, or is reluctant to read, then why not make it a collaborative approach.</p> <p>You could read a page each, or even a word each, taking it in turns.</p> <p>You could be the reader, and your child can help you when you find a word ‘difficult’ (this is a great way to make your child feel important and that they are using their reading skills to help you)</p> <p>You could read the text first, and then your child reads it after you.</p>	<p>It helps when reading feels like a shared experience.</p> <p>Parent reading is great modelling for children.</p> <p>It reduces the stress on your child.</p> <p>Asking your child to help you with reading, is great for their self-esteem.</p> <p>It speeds up the lesson in times when your child may be reluctant to learn.</p>
<p>Stay calm.</p>	<p>It sounds simple, but English is a difficult subject for many, and the curriculum is large. It can easily lead to stressful situations between parent and child. If you are stressed or anxious, your child will start to feel the same way. If you feel the situation is becoming stressed, take a break, or change the approach being used (perhaps using one of the tips above).</p>	<p>This helps to ensure that English doesn’t become a subject that is disliked by your child.</p>