

HOMework MATE

Homework System

This is a student-managed system with teacher oversight. The ultimate goal of education is having students self-manage their own learning, and this system fits that philosophy. I know it works, but you need to adapt it to your own circumstances. I advocate only reading and sight words as homework for the first two years.

READING MATE

The student picks four books on the Monday of homework week. You can intervene by choosing some, but make sure the student picks at least one. They can read the book to someone or have the book read to them. It is important to read aloud to at least age 8. The student or parent can fill out the sheet each night after they have read for 15 minutes. There is room for a comment.

SPELLING MATE

Each student has an individual spelling list they maintain themselves. Some classes use an A-Z notebook. The way you organize this bank of words is up to you. I used to do Journal Writing for the last 10 minutes before the first break. Students put their finished work, open, on my desk, before leaving. They had to circle any words they thought were misspelt. It only takes a few minutes for you to check the words and add a comment about the content if you choose. It's a great way to flag a student to talk to if their journal content suggests further conversation is necessary. This should only take you about 2-3 minutes once you get used to skimming. Students collect their journal books and identify the misspelt words which they then add to their individual list. Each Monday you provide the first five words for the spelling list from curriculum content. The student adds a further 5 at their individual level. Not every student will have 10 words. Your turbo students will be learning to spell by reading, reading, reading. We learn most of our spelling by reading and writing. You can hear the first five spelling as a whole class, but the remaining 5 need to be tested individually and you can do this with a buddy system. Always have the student write the spelling word, rather than say the letters out loud and always hear them OUT OF ORDER.

Specifically teach the STUDY/SAY/COVER/WRITE/CHECK method as it has been proven to be the most effective. The STUDY part can be its downfall if not done properly.

SENTENCE MATE

The student chooses 4 words they find interesting and writes a sentence using each. This develops their knowledge of the word and its appropriate context.

MATHS MATE

Homework is for consolidation of previously learnt work. It also develops the habit of doing school work at home, a necessary mindset for success in further education. Maths homework should consist of number facts, tables, etc., or should be revision of current work. This component needs flexible management with the student and teacher both contributing. You will need an overview of individual skill development and I suggest this is best done in the first few weeks of the year. Once you have targeted skill deficits, the student can manage this themselves. When they think they have achieved mastery at a certain set of skills (say the 6x table), they approach you or another adult in the room to be tested.

HOMework MATE

Starting Monday:/...../.....

Name:

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READING MATE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
I read	I read	I read	I read

SPELLING MATE

No		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

STUDY (What part did you get wrong? What was tricky?) SAY/COVER/WRITE/CHECK
If it's still wrong, start again.

SENTENCE MATE

Your Words	Sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	

MATHS MATE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday