The Homework Grid

Taken from Homework and the Homework Grid, Ian Lillico, 2004

Ian Lillico’s Homework Grid

- Recognises the wide range of after school activities.

- Encourages positive family interactions.

- Allows relaxed time for children to pursue their own learning.
• Children need life skills as well as academic skills to cope with life beyond school and home.

• Parents and teachers work together for the benefit of all children.

Factors impinging on ‘traditional’ homework

• Busy lifestyles.
• Sedentary nature of children- smaller backyards, smaller families, electronic games, drive everywhere, parent’s safety concerns.
• Change in family life (single parent, blended families, dysfunctional families, etc).
• Information explosion-Internet, computer games, mobile phones, DVD’s, cable TV, etc.
• More emphasis on writing and reading than doing.
Parents and Homework

- Homework can be a chore for both child and parent, especially after a hard day at the office.
- Parents miss out on quality time with children because the child is doing hours of homework.
- Parents do their child’s homework.
- Stress of homework leads to arguments.
- Some parents judge schools on the amount of homework given (more is better).

The Homework Grid - Why and What

- Children need to practise concepts learnt at school.
- Includes work done at home for home-eg shopping, housework. As a member of the family children need to contribute to the family.
- Includes physical activity.
- Includes activities that enhance family life eg being read to, playing games as a family, cultural activities etc.
## Lillicos’ Grid – Recommended Cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read a variety of books including school books</th>
<th>Be read to by another member of the family</th>
<th>Shopping with parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity/sport training</td>
<td>Housework (Compulsory every night)</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach your parents something you were taught at school</td>
<td>Play a game with an adult</td>
<td>Assignments/project research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meditation/Spiritual/Relaxation</td>
<td>Use computer for work</td>
<td>Cultural/Music practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## About the Grid

- Each cell can represent an amount of time: 5-10 minutes.
- Fortnightly.
- Do something from each cell to ensure breadth and diversity of work done at home.
- Schools work with parents to ensure children are balanced in their activities.
- Whole school or at least upper and lower school have agreement on cells, which should emphasise diversity, family life and active pursuits.
**Example of Year 2/3 Homework Grid**

**Yr 2/3 Homework Grid**  
Name: .................................................................  
Due date: Fri 2/3/07  
The shaded boxes are **compulsory** and children must complete at least two of the remaining boxes per fortnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Contracts Book</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Housework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Use the Look, Cover, Write, Visualise, Check method to learn your spelling words each night.  
The spelling words will be given to the children at the beginning of each week.  
Spelling will be tested each Friday.  
Parent’s signature  | Complete Contract 3 and hand in on Friday 23/2/07 (Do some each day)  
Parent’s signature  | Read aloud to your parents.  
Parents please sign the Reading Record each night and return it with the reader each day. Readers are exchanged daily.  
Parent’s signature  | Help clean up after dinner each evening  
Parent’s signature  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shopping</th>
<th>Physical/Sport</th>
<th>Cultural/Music</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Go shopping with your parent. Discuss money, eg how much change did you get from $xx. How was that change made up? eg $1.20 could be 2 x 50c + 20c.  
Parent’s signature  | Continue with your organised sport or if you don’t participate in one, play a game outside.  
Parent’s signature  | Continue with your instrumental music lessons, or if you don’t learn an instrument, listen to some classical music (maybe in the car on your way to or from school).  
Parent’s signature  | Matheletics Play it live for four evenings.  
Parent’s signature  |