

The Homework Grid

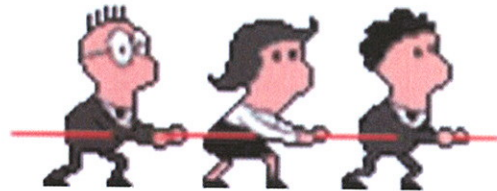
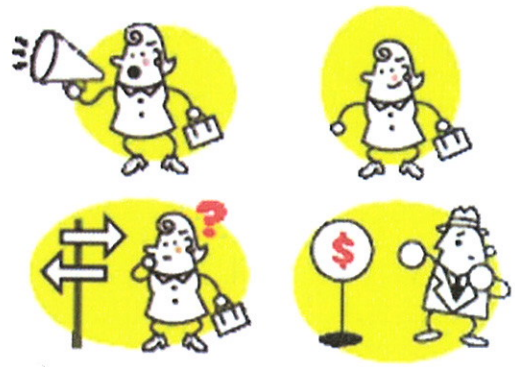
Taken from *Homework and the Homework Grid*, Ian Lillico, 2004



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

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

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.....

Term 1 Weeks 4-5

Due date: Fri 2/3/07

The shaded boxes are **compulsory** and children must complete at least two of the remaining boxes per fortnight.

Spelling 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	Contracts Book Complete Contract 3 and hand in on Friday 23/2/07 (Do some each day) Parent's signature Complete Contract 4 and hand in on Friday 2/3/07. (Do some each day) Parent's signature	Reading 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	Housework Help clean up after dinner each evening. Parent's signature
Shopping 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	Physical/Sport Continue with your organised sport or if you don't participate in one, play a game outside. Parent's signature	Cultural/Music Continue with your instrumental music lessons, or if you don't learn an instrument, listen to some <u>classical</u> music (maybe in the car on your way to or from school). Parent's signature	Mathematics Mathematics Play it live for four evenings. Parent's signature