Some tips for learning at home

Connecting learning at Home and School requires:

• Teachers and parents having an understanding that children ‘learn everywhere’ and there are important overlaps between home, school and the community.

• Teachers and parents understanding the benefits that come from effective partnerships – for children’s learning and outcomes, and for parents and teachers themselves.

• Schools providing opportunities, sometimes in partnership with others, for parental self-growth, adult learning and development of new skills to support children’s learning at home.

• Families being informed about and understanding their child’s progress and feeling confident to work with teachers in the educational decision-making affecting their child.

• Schools acknowledging, valuing and supporting the home learning that children bring to school.

My to-do list

• take advantage of every formal and informal meeting or school gathering as an opportunity to emphasise to parents the importance of their role in their children’s learning.

• review the school’s ‘homework’ policy, so ‘homework’ means not only work done alone, but also interactive activities shared with others at home or in the community, linking schoolwork to real life.

• Use school community communication strategies (eg newsletter, website, noticeboards, meetings, assemblies, letters, flyers) to communicate the value of parental engagement in their children’s education.

• teachers send home easy-to-understand outlines of school learning to be undertaken each term with a clear explanation of what students are expected to learn and how families can help.

• schools, in conjunction with community organisations, provide families with targeted programs to support student’s learning at home. This should include understanding the ‘language of schooling’, so parents can participate in conversations about learning that happens at school with their child and teacher.

• teachers call, write, email and meet with families regularly to share progress and provide specific advice and hear feedback from families on how they can help their children learn.