

SCHOOL TIME VS. FAMILY TIME VS. FREE TIME

Setting Expectations for your Home Learning Environment

It can be confusing for children when their home becomes their learning space as well. They may not understand how to act when it is time for school.

To avoid this, you can set expectations that detail the difference between relaxing at home time and acceptable school-time behavior. Don't make assumptions that your child will automatically know when to do what—put your schedule in writing!

Here are some questions to ask yourself and decide on what is acceptable in your home:

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- How will your child know that you have switched roles from Mom/Dad to “teacher”?
 - Do you want your child to get dressed for school, or is working in pajamas acceptable in your home?
 - Is watching TV during breakfast, lunch, dinner, or other break times acceptable?
 - Will you let your student listen to music while doing schoolwork?
 - What restrictions will you put on cell phone use during the school day?
 - Do you plan to let your child check text messages? If so, when and for how long?
 - Will your student work in a designated area? If yes, where?
 - Will you have hours when visitors are not allowed? Will you set a limit for how long a visitor may stay?
 - What websites will be off-limits during the school day?
 - Will you schedule regular breaks for surfing the web? If so, how often and how long will they last?
 - Will gaming be off-limits entirely, or will you allow gaming during breaks?
 - Will you need to establish time limits on computer-based school activities?

Once you have answers to these questions, discuss them with your student(s) and post them in a location in your home for all to see so your entire family is on the same page.