

## Supporting Your Child's Engagement in Learning

*We understand the challenges that you may face whilst trying to engage and motivate your child to work at home. We would like to reassure you that we do not expect you to be professional teachers; we are hoping that you can feel confident to support your child's learning with our help.*

When you hear this...	Don't say...	Try this...
<i><b>I can't do this</b></i>	<i><b>Yes you can</b></i>	<p>It looks like you are feeling frustrated, what can I do to help?</p> <p>Let's have a look together and see if two heads are better than one.</p> <p><i>(Top tip: Try working in short bursts – three separate 5 minute activities might be better than one longer 15 minute activity)</i></p>
<i><b>This is too hard</b></i>	<i><b>Well just miss it out</b></i>	<p>I understand that the work is difficult, would you like me to help you?</p> <p>Can you move onto a different question and then come back to it?</p> <p>Put your science down for a while and pick up your maths – I know how hard you have been working on that.</p> <p>When I am frustrated, it helps to do something else for a while. Would you like to listen to some music/ help me water the plants/ make a cup of tea?</p> <p><i>(Top tip: Try to use little rewards, e.g. stickers/ smiley faces, that can be traded in for a 'bigger' reward at the end of the day or week- such as time playing a favourite game, or completing a chosen activity with you).</i></p>
<i><b>I don't know what to do</b></i>	<i><b>Don't make excuses</b></i>	<p>Let me read the instructions to you and see if we can break them down.</p>

		Let's send a quick email to your teacher. I know they will want to help.
<b><i>I can't find the answer</i></b>	<b><i>You mustn't be looking hard enough</i></b>	<p>I can see that you are working hard on trying to find a solution; I'm here if you need me.</p> <p>Is there someone who might help with ...?</p> <p>Where else could you look for the answer?</p> <p><i>(Top tip: BBC Bitesize is a fantastic resource that can offer help with a range of subjects: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</a>).</i></p>
<b><i>I can't be bothered</i></b>	<b><i>Get bothered or you will lose your computer/ phone...</i></b>	<p>It is natural to feel like that some days. Try 30 minutes of work and then we can cook that pizza/ watch TV/ play a game.</p> <p>Well I've got to clean the bathroom. I will do that whilst you have a go at your English and then we can both have a rest.</p> <p><i>(Top tip: Routine is helpful for children, so try to keep bedtimes, mealtimes the same and add in some structure to the day. It may help to create a visual timetable. There are lots of templates on the Internet.)</i></p>
<b><i>There is too much to do</i></b>	<b><i>I'm busy too, you just need to get on with it</i></b>	<p>Let's break it down to one task/lesson at a time.</p> <p>We could make a tick list to help you work through the most important jobs.</p>

***Remember, if your child is feeling hungry, tired or preoccupied with other problems, then they are more likely to feel overwhelmed. If your requests aren't working that day, get up and go outside, watch a film, bake a cake, do anything that brings you happiness and start afresh tomorrow. Together we can do this!***

***If you are worried that the work you are being provided with feels too hard for your child, speak to your child's teacher or the SENCO ([laura.dawson@salfordcity-academy.org](mailto:laura.dawson@salfordcity-academy.org)); they will be able to provide you with different or adapted activities.***