

Parents as Partners

IN KUMON STUDY

In general, the five main things I share with parents about homework tend to be:

1. The work should be done every day.
2. At a fixed 'Kumon time' each day.
3. The starting and finishing times should be written on the front page.
4. The completed homework should be brought back to the Centre.
5. The most important tool of all - 'Praise'.



This is just the outline of what a student is to do in order to become an excellent student with Kumon. At the Parent Orientation Meeting, we share the image of what excellent learning habits look like and ask parents to help us create those actions at home.

Our learning method is about mimicking and recreating the habits and skills of excellent students in EVERY new student.

1. Create the 'Kumon Time' and learning spaces for each child & family.

A quiet space which will not be interrupted is helpful. In the beginning perhaps where mum or dad can observe, is best. (The lower levels will need parental input) Ensure no distractions, nothing to be on the table or desk apart from worksheet, pencil and eraser. A good start is everything.

To ensure a good start, parents should talk less as the preparation is made.

Less eye contact with your child is best in these moments. So, keep eyes on the worksheets! You can even point to 'name' and 'time' to prompt these being filled in. Then, point to the first question saying, 'Let's start!'

A good start should lead to a steady rhythm. From question to question and from page to page, rhythm is the goal. If the child is new to study, sometimes it's good for a parent to quietly turn the page over then point silently to the first question at the top of the next page.

In summary, 'Kumon time and learning space' is the physical location as well as what happens between the child and the worksheet. We want to keep the space fluid, moving, with hands, brain and pencil in unison.



2. Making the daily habit a worthwhile one for each child.

A good start and a steady study rhythm overseen by parents should get any student to the end of a workbook at home.

- Start and finish time is written but time should not be the focus/concern.
- To create a habit, children must feel good about it. Words of praise from parents and their guidance is the key. 'Great work', 'a good effort', 'you are doing well.'
- If a child hesitates, a simple 'Do what you can' is better than parents helping or responding to questions or comments. Once again, please do not make Kumon a conversation.
- Two strong rules are – never pick up the pencil and never turn the worksheet away from your child.

3. Completed homework brought to the Centre.

The flow of learning we aim for at home and at the Centre is one whereby the child feels clever and more confident the more pages they complete. Ideally there is a connection with homework and what they did study last Centre day. The flow of learning should be clear to the student. We do pay close attention to completed homework, no matter what age our students are as this is respectful and a key to their flow of learning.



4. The early days and weeks of Kumon study.

It is important I help parents see the small changes their child makes during this time.

I hope to help you understand what to look for and what to report back to the Centre.

How do you organise your child's study at home? What can you tell us that will help staff see the full picture and thus be more effective when organising a study plan.

5. Last of all, the most important tool of all - 'Praise'.

I ask that you try to carefully praise the right things.

Skills such as;

- A good start
- A steady rhythm
- Turning the page promptly
- Trying each question
- Finishing the whole workbook

In order to boost satisfaction, productivity and enjoyable learning outcomes it is important that we know, guide and appreciate the efforts of parents and students, five days of the week. It is our aim to support you.

