

Idea 5: Create a Home Expectations Chart

Purpose

Most children thrive when they understand what is expected of them, and they have clear routines and structure. Schools set specific expectations and routines for students to follow during the day, and often put these expectations up on the walls in classrooms so everyone can see them.

A similar expectations chart could be useful at home.

Structure and predictability are key to positive and productive environments.

- Consider **what skills** your child/ren will **need to use/learn**.
- Create some **agreed** family home **expectations**.
- Use the home expectations chart to communicate these expectations, and remind your child/ren, referencing the chart, as needed.

Steps to follow

1. Note home settings: kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, outside, living/dining/learning areas.

Consider the settings and activities your child is involved in throughout the day in your home. Settings are the places your child will spend time. Activities are what your child will do during the day on a regular basis.

2. Pick three core learning values.

Pick three core 'learning values' that fit well with your family home. Examples include 'responsible', 'respectful', 'safe', 'give my best effort', etc.

3. Choose agreed expected behaviours within each setting.

Under each setting, add specific behaviours that your family agrees are important for learning success in each setting. Keep these brief and positive and make sure that they can be easily interpreted. For example, 'We are kind', 'We share our spaces', 'We speak using friendly voices', 'We take turns when we are speaking'.

4. Remind each other to use the behaviours, and help others to learn them if needed.

Consider ways for children and family members to be reminded to use and learn the agreed behaviours. For younger children, your family might act out what this actually looks like. For example, model how it looks to be ready to learn in the morning or how to ask for help.

5. Display the chart on the wall.

Display a copy of the home expectations chart or share an electronic copy so that it can be seen or accessed by all family members in each setting. Provide visuals for non-readers, and adjust as needed to suit your family.

6. Use the chart daily!

Refer to the chart regularly. This could be at the start of every day to provide prompts as needed and/or to celebrate you and your family using the agreed behaviours.

Refer to the chart when giving praise e.g. 'Well done Fatima, you were sitting at your desk with your materials ready to complete your homework by 4pm. That is being an independent learner!'