

How parents and carers can help their children's learning

Parents and carers scaffold children's learning by leading and coaching them towards coming up with their own answers. This shows children how to learn, and makes it more likely that they will succeed. The next time your child asks for help, you might try some of the following ways to scaffold thinking and learning.

- **Prompt children to extend their thinking**

- Ask them to think about something relevant: *"Why do you think...?"*
- Ask them to think through alternatives: *"That would be one way, what's another way we could try?"*
- Provide support for thinking through difficult tasks: *"Let's have a think about this together."*

- **Ask them to explain the steps**

- Help children to plan their approach: *"What is it that we need to do?"*
- Ask them to review their steps so far: *"Tell me more about what you have already tried?"*

- **Demonstrate**

- Show an example and talk it through: *"First, I will ..., and then I will ..., and then I can..."*

- **Break it into steps**

- Help children who are stuck by breaking the task into smaller steps.
- It's a good idea to ensure the first step involves something that children can already do. This way they will experience success early which helps their confidence.
- Be sure to provide praise for completing each step as they work through a task.