

4: 20 TIPS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENT LEARNING

1. Make sure that the project / topic for learning and research are clear and that success criteria are decided and available
2. Have examples of high level work so pupils can see exemplars for expectations
3. Set clear timed deadlines
4. Give pupils plenty of support and practice in 'chunking' big tasks or projects into manageable pieces.
5. Ensure that resources are easily accessible and clearly organised
6. Establish routines such as 'Ask three before me' (teacher or other adult) if they are stuck.
7. Set up 'How to' resources for frequently asked questions (group activity)
8. Ask questions such as 'How do you think we can approach this task / problem?' (open ended – wide thinking- Blue sky and out of the box!)
9. Encourage real dialogue by using high level questioning (model examples)
10. Try to set tasks which have a real audience (final outcomes to their work)
11. Encourage pupils to regularly evaluate the quality of their work and resources used or needed.
12. Encourage pupils to share references and links to other resources they have found e.g. 'On a discussion notice board' - could use IT?
13. Encourage pupils to teach each other and to share their ways of working
14. Set homework (home learning – research) that encourages pupils to collaborate (IT links - safely)
15. Model how you are learning – talk through your own experiences
16. Ask for pupil feedback on how you could improve their learning experiences – and the feelings and learning of other pupils – (self-assessment)
17. Plan so that there is flexibility of time for their discoveries and learning – leave space – use silence (they may need the time for thinking!)
18. Encourage pupils to lead the learning with others – take responsibility – presentation skills
19. Have clear signage to resources such as pens, rulers, paint, glue, paper etc.
20. Encourage pupils to identify and value the successes of others, and celebrate them (learning how to overcome problems – cope with failure and 'I don't know!')