



## Descriptive Praise for Homework

### Younger children:

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- ☺ *You've been working for five minutes on your own and I haven't heard any silly noises. It looks like you've been concentrating. I can see you've already written one sentence and it starts with a capital letter and there's a full stop at the end. That way I can clearly see where your sentence begins and ends.*
- ☺ *I like the way all these letters are sitting on the line. That looks very neat. It is a complete sentence and five out of six words are spelt correctly. Can you find the word that needs to be improved?*
- ☺ *These tall letters go all the way up to the top line just the way they're meant to and there's a nice space between these two words. These letters are nicely formed with the exit strokes in just the right place. You must have gone slowly and concentrated well to get them looking so nice. I'm sure your teacher will be pleased.*
- ☺ *You've written six sentences in your story already. That's more than you wrote last time. I like the way one sentence follows logically after the other.*
- ☺ *I can see you know how to do this part and this part and the only bit that's causing you difficulty is the adding together. Since I know you can add my guess is you'll be able to do that part too when you slow down.*
- ☺ *I noticed that when you were reading to me you corrected yourself without my having to tell you what the word was. And here when you didn't know this word you didn't give up but you took a guess and you were right.*
- ☺ *When you were reading to me just then you used such expression in your voice I could tell which character was speaking without looking at the page, and when you made a mistake you went back to the beginning of the sentence and read it through perfectly.*

### Older children:

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- ☺ *Since you didn't write what you had to do for Geography what will you need to do to enable you to do your homework? That's right. Thank you for giving me a sensible answer. Would you like to ring Tom or Harry?*
- ☺ *You thought you couldn't do this question but I see you've had a go and made an intelligent guess. You've got part of it right.*
- ☺ *You're really persevering with those words you're learning for German. It takes maturity and self-discipline to stick with something you don't enjoy doing.*

- ☺ *I can see you're feeling pretty fed up about this homework so I really appreciate that you haven't left the room. You are in exactly the right place. Just how cross are you feeling about this English essay?*
- ☺ *I see you've put the date on your work and you've underlined the title even though I know you think those things aren't worth bothering about. I call that good attention to detail and it's something that teachers appreciate.*
- ☺ *Fred, I was so thrilled when Daddy told me you had asked your Spanish teacher for some clarification about the homework. I know you find her a bit scary so that took courage. It can make you feel a bit embarrassed to ask a question like that because we always assume it's clear to everyone else and I'm the only one who doesn't get it. But I think there may be others who benefited from your question and now you know exactly what you have to do. If you hadn't asked and you'd done the question wrongly your teacher might have been cross.*

Any age:

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- ☺ *You remembered to bring your homework diary with you. You are getting so much more organised.*
- ☺ *Even though I know you really don't like doing homework you came inside as soon as I said it was homework time. It takes self-control to do something you really don't want to do.*
- ☺ *I appreciate that you're not moaning about the amount of homework you have to do and the evil teachers who set it. That's a much more mature approach. What's the maximum time homework can take? And what are you going to do when it's finished?*
- ☺ *What do you have to do for your maths homework today? Pretend I don't know how to do it (!) and explain to me exactly how you're going to do this sum. I appreciate you doing this even though you might think it's a bit tedious and maybe can't see the point. Can you guess why I'm asking you to explain it in this much detail?... Thank you for being willing to take a guess. That's exactly the right answer.*
- ☺ *You're sitting down at the table and you've got your books out. You look like someone who's ready to begin work.*
- ☺ *I'm so glad to see complete instructions in your homework diary. Now you'll know exactly what to do. That's planning ahead.*
- ☺ *I'm pleased to see you've written your answers in full sentences and you've given all the information to thoroughly answer the question. That way you'll get good marks and when you look at this again for revision the sentence will make sense.*
- ☺ *You've remembered the rule about showing your working in maths even though you'd rather skip over it.*
- ☺ *That's the first time I've seen you fiddle with anything during homework today. What an improvement! That means I've been able to give you 4 out of 5 ticks on your chart.*
- ☺ *You're looking at your work. That's the right place to put your attention.*
- ☺ *You've got 6 of the 7 letters in 'because' - can you guess the 7<sup>th</sup>?*