



Brussels, 27 August 2018  
OIB.CPE.3/MdM

## **STUDY SESSIONS AT AFTER-SCHOOL CHILDCARE CENTRES**

### **Organisation**

Study sessions are an opportunity for children to do their homework. Childcare workers are on hand to ensure the atmosphere is calm and conducive to studying and they make sure that the children do their homework.

The children are given help or an explanation if they need it, provided that the staff member is capable of doing so in the relevant language.

The childcare workers supervising the study session are attentive to the needs of the children; they encourage them and help the children with their homework (bearing in mind their own abilities, the nature of the request, the time available, the number of children in the group, etc.). However, they are not there to correct homework, to check that it has all been done or to make sure that the children have understood and retained what they have been taught. They make sure that the children take responsibility for their own school work and encourage them to help each other (e.g. an older child may wish to read with a younger child).

A 'study contract' can be drawn up if the decision to do homework at the after-school centre is not taken by the child alone but by his or her parents.

The contract is an agreement between the child, the parents and the childcare worker in charge of his or her group. The task of making sure the child abides by the agreement falls to the childcare worker who is responsible for the child on a day-to-day basis. He or she must remind the child of this commitment and, if the child does not honour it, inform the parents and discuss the matter with them and with the child.

Parents may also ask the childcare worker responsible for the study session to provide regular reports. These may take the form of short notes in the diary (or some other arrangement can be made). The child should ask for the school diary to be initialled as proof for the parents that he or she attended the study session.

Parents can meet with the person responsible for the study session, either at a time that does not disrupt the quiet of the room or by appointment.

## The psychology behind our educational approach

The role of the study session supervisor is to give children **guidance, support** and **encouragement** with their homework, and help them become more **independent** where their school work is concerned.

Their role is not to teach (which is for the school to do) or to help children who have fallen behind (which would require external remedial support).

The purpose of homework is to help children become more independent in their studies. The study session supervisor therefore guides the children in this direction. To do so, however, the supervisor must follow various **stages** that will enable the children to develop **confidence** in themselves and their ability. They can explain the instructions to help children get started with their homework. While doing their homework, the children may seek **reassurance** by asking the supervisor if they are doing it right, and thus learn to become increasingly **independent** in their school work. It is also important for the supervisor to **congratulate** the children, but also to **put any difficulties into perspective**, reassure them and build their confidence.

Although the study session supervisor's role is not to ensure the children improve in a given subject, he or she can inform the parents of progress made by their child.

All requests from parents for extra homework will be refused. The purpose of the study session is to allow the children to do their school homework, not extra work requested by their parents.

Furthermore, the study supervisor cannot always organise reading exercises, as these can only take place if there are just a few children at the study session.

If a child attends the study session with an outstanding school punishment to be completed, the supervisor takes into account whether the child wishes to do so at the study session, even if this is what the parents have requested.

Ultimately, the parents are responsible for making sure that their child does his or her homework.

The educational psychology team