

# HOME LEARNING GUIDE

## Category One: Age 4-7

The Challenge offers a fantastic opportunity for a fun and valuable home learning experience. There's plenty of opportunities for you to support and enrich your child's learning as you discover together how to save money and protect the environment.

### HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING DURING THE CHALLENGE?

We've developed a set of teaching materials for children aged 4-7.

These are designed to:

1. **Help children explore the environmental and financial benefits of conserving energy**
2. **Inspire children to produce creative and thoughtful challenge entries that raise awareness of these benefits among their friends and family**

The teaching materials include two activities, one activity introducing the topic of energy and a further activity exploring how saving energy can save us money and help the environment. The teaching materials culminate in a choice of three challenge entry options. Children can choose the entry option that best appeals to them.

Although the teaching materials were designed with teachers in mind, they can be a helpful tool for parents/carers too. It's simple and easy to adapt the materials to help with home learning. Here's some key pointers:

### DISCUSSION

Throughout the teaching materials, children are encouraged to take part in discussions – look out for the following phrases, 'as a class', 'in pairs', 'in groups'. The aim of these discussions is to encourage children to talk through their ideas and share their experiences. Teachers can then help with any misunderstandings.

**Children learn best when they can discuss their thoughts and share ideas.** In the absence of a classroom, as a parent/carer, you can help facilitate these discussions. Take the place of the 'class', the 'pair' or the 'group' and talk through the ideas with your child.

Encourage your child to ask questions – don't worry if you don't know the answer, you can do the research together.

Get creative with discussions – you could invite the whole family to join in and share their ideas and experiences or if you have access to video calling, you could even set up a group conversation with other children, so they could share their ideas remotely.

#### **This Home Learning Guide will:**

- a. help you to support your child's learning during the Challenge
- b. help you support your child to develop a creative and thoughtful Challenge entry

## PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES

Although the Challenge materials were originally designed to be delivered in small groups or a classroom setting, the home environment actually offers new, exciting opportunities for learning. The focus of the Category One challenge is energy, in particular saving energy. This topic clearly has explicit links to the family and the home.

Use the teaching materials as a guide to help you identify the relevant areas to explore and then see if you can find practical ways to bring these to life. **Why not set your child mini challenges around the house...?**

- Can they show you which appliances are using energy?
- Can they help the family reduce their energy use by switching off unused appliances e.g. the TV or removing chargers once devices are charged?
- Can they find fun ways to share their learning with the rest of the household?

## HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO CREATE THEIR CHALLENGE ENTRY?

As part of the Challenge, children will be creating a Challenge entry which raises awareness among their friends and family of the importance of saving energy. Children can choose from 3 challenge entry options – further details can be found in the Plenary section of the *Category One Teaching Materials*. Further information about entry requirements can be found in *Category One Challenge Guidelines*.

Encourage your child to follow these **three** steps:

### STEP ONE

#### PLAN THEIR ENTRY

Encourage them to talk through their ideas.

- What have you learnt from the Challenge? What would you like other people to know more about and/or do?
- Why should we save energy? Encourage them to consider how saving energy helps us a. save money and b. save the planet.

### STEP TWO

#### DO A DRAFT

Create a draft copy of their entry - this could be a rough design that allows them to test out some of their ideas.

They could share their ideas and rough draft with other family members or friends to find out:

- if the message is clear
- if the idea is memorable

### STEP THREE

#### CREATE THEIR ENTRY

Remember the entry should:

- be colourful
- stand out
- have a memorable message that's easy to understand.

### REMEMBER...

#### CHALLENGE SUMMARY SHEET

All entries must include a completed *Challenge Summary Sheet* which can be found in the Category One Challenge Pack. If your child struggles with writing, then they can dictate their answer to you instead. They will not be penalised for not physically writing the answer themselves, as long as the ideas are their own.

All entries must be submitted by no later than **Friday 3rd July**. All entries must be submitted electronically by either a parent/carer, practitioner or teacher. For guidance on how to submit your child's challenge entry, see the *Category One Challenge Guidelines*.