

ELIJAH SOCIAL COGNITIVE SKILLS CENTRE

Dr Debora Elijah PhD MA DEA BSc (Hons)

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Homework Policy	
Responsible Committee:	CEO of ESCSC Dr Debora Elijah
Policy Co-ordinator:	Director of ESCSC Nivin Jaber
Date revised:	September 2024
Next review date:	September 2025

General Information

The Elijah Social Cognitive Skills Centre (ESCSC) considers homework not as an optional extra, but an essential part of the PROSCIG© programme.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside sessions at the Elijah Social Cognitive Skills

Centre with parents/carers. It enables parents/carers to actively engage in their child's intervention and reinforce key skills being learnt. The child's homework would typically reflect the specific goals and skills in the child's intervention programme, as outlined in their report.

Homework enhances the child's learning, improves achievement, and develops the children's independent skills and as such is an integral part of the PROSCIG© programme. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each PROSCIG© programme area.

Homework enables children to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in intervention and prepare for new learning activities
- Apply skills learnt during intervention outside the clinical setting, therefore allowing generalisation of skills
- Have an opportunity for independent work
- Show progress and understanding
- Gain parent/carer's engagement in their child's therapy, and allow parents/carers to provide feedback on how the child is progressing outside the clinical setting
- Create further channels for dialogue between ESCSC and the home
- Have their holistic needs addressed at the ESCSC

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The cognitive behavioural work given from the ESCSC to complete at home is essential to the child's programme success, and parents must be aware that not completing the homework means the child's programme is incomplete and this will be reflected in generalised clinical aims.

Expectations

Children should receive some homework to complete at least once a week. This will be given to the parents/carers at the end of the child's session.

Children are expected to bring in their completed homework to their next week's session. ESCSC will introduce homework files to support the homework completion, track and communication between the parents/carers.

Incomplete Homework

When homework is not completed on multiple occasions, therapists should initially support the child and parents to ensure the tasks set meet the child's needs. The following steps will also be taken:

- **Therapist** – reviews the homework with the child and, if the child is of an older age and verbal, discuss if they found the work challenging, and if there is a way to support them.
- **Team** - Report and discuss homework challenges with the multidisciplinary team during supervision, allowing an appropriate action plan to be developed.
- **Director/CEO** – meets with the parents to discuss homework challenges and outline the most appropriate course of action to enable enhanced adherence to the homework policy.

Responsibilities

The Role of the Parent

- To review the child's homework and what they have been learning during that week.
- To further deliver and enforce skills from the ESCSC included in the homework, to generalise therapy.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in by the next week's session.
- To attempt all work provided.
- To inform the therapist of any difficulties.

The Role of the Therapist

- To provide weekly homework for the child, that is in line with their intervention goals.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that homework is being completed by parents.
- To note and respond to any comments written by parents.
- To ensure each homework task includes full and comprehensive instructions.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.

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- To review returned homework promptly and use feedback and comments provided to guide future intervention plans.
 - To provide help and support where needed.
 - To inform the Director/CEO and multidisciplinary team, as appropriate, when problems arise.

Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed yearly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Amendments to the policy may be made as necessary and all staff should be made aware of the new changes.