

BUILDING WORK SKILLS

To become a successful and engaged learner, Kumon students need to develop work skills. This means taking study seriously, concentrating & having healthy study habits that allow students to be actively engaged with their learning.

Getting Ready for Kumon

Let's be honest, children generally don't like homework. It's our job to ensure that the Kumon routine is non-negotiable, but also sustainable for the long term. These are skills your child will use throughout schooling.

Your child may try to delay their study by making excuses. To prevent this, make sure their study space is always pre-prepared, they've been to the toilet & had a snack before Kumon time. Once they have started their Kumon, they mustn't get up. Students need to take Kumon seriously, go fast and complete good quality work. Kumon is meant to be a short activity where they complete excellent work quickly.

The Parent's Role

Developing a positive attitude to study relies on students doing work that isn't too challenging & is manageable to complete in a short time frame. It's our job to ensure that students have all the necessary skills to be successful at each stage. This means practising work skills from day 1. It is helpful if other members of the family are also having study or quiet time when Kumon is happening; sit with or near your child. Your role is to be present, encourage good posture, concentration and keep your child on track. You want to set and maintain the same study standard at home that your child experiences at school and in the Kumon centre. Help if they get stuck, but give them a chance to think it through first. Ask questions rather than give the answer.

A Sustainable Routine

Developing a consistent routine takes time and may need adjusting as you go. Let us know if the work is too hard or if your child is unable to do it quickly. We can make workload adjustments until your child has the hang of hard work, or it might be time for a review to take the pressure off and consolidate foundations. Always cap study time at 20 or 30 minutes per subject to keep the daily routine sustainable. Don't let your child study for hours. Make sure your child is on the same page and knows when Kumon time is; knowing what's expected helps students be prepared to do their best. Using the study history, having a physical chart, or habit tracking app, can be helpful for students to see how much they're doing and can motivate them to stay on track!

Characteristics of a Successful Kumon Student

Every time your child sits down to do Kumon, please assist them to focus on:

- **Posture**—sitting up straight with both hands on the desk. No slouching or resting head on hands.
- **Reading instructions**—before attempting any question, students must read instructions and examples. If your child is asking questions, get them to read you the instructions out loud.
- **Re-reading**—encourage your child to re-read examples and questions out loud before asking for help, including re-reading passages in English worksheets
- **Problem solving**—students should study examples, compare answers and may even mark tricky questions as they go. Your child can talk through their thought process with you to further deepen and clarify their understanding. Explaining things to other people is a wonderful learning tool.
- **Correction ability**—your child should correct mistakes by identifying the wrong part, erasing only that part and then writing the correct answer
- **Maths skills**—from B level students are encouraged to hold carry marks in their head instead of writing them down and following Kumon examples to show intermediate steps correctly.