

# Showing Your Students *How to Check for Understanding* When They Are at Home

Without our guidance, we worry that students will view the assignments we are sending home as work they just need to “do”. Their goal, we fear, is to finish the work as fast as possible. Our goal, however, is to have them actually learn while on their own. And learning involves continuously reflecting on what they are learning and if they are learning.

Students will have more success and be more motivated to keep working if we show them how to check their understanding.

For each assignment, we can support them to clarify:

- What am I learning and how will I know I have learned it?
- How can I check my understanding throughout the learning?
- How will I know if I am on track or if I am struggling?
- What can I do if I am struggling?

So, we suggest that you include with each and every assignment or group of assignments this “Own It!” information as a part of the support you send home to your students:

**Own It!** True learning happens you own your learning. Use this information to help you clearly understand how well you are learning today. When you check your understanding, you are owning your learning.

- ▶ You are learning about... (content or topic) in order to learn how to... (skill)
- ▶ You can check your understanding throughout the learning by...
- ▶ You will know if you are on track because...
- ▶ You will know if you are struggling because...
- ▶ If you are struggling, you can...

Learning at home is important, but educators can’t do it alone. We need to ensure that the students are motivated to be active participants in their own learning and that families and caregivers are empowered to support their children in their learning.

We can do this by clearly sharing the:

- **“Own It”** information on each and every assignment.
- Student resource for **“How to Check for Understanding When You Are at Home”** with each and every student.
- Family resource for **“Supporting Your Child in How to Check for Understanding When They Are at Home”** with each and every caregiver.