

# Supporting Student Ownership at Home



## A Toolkit for Teachers

*Supporting Student Ownership at Home*  
*A Toolkit for Teachers*

**[www.ElevatedAchievement.com](http://www.ElevatedAchievement.com)**

© 2020, Elevated Achievement Group  
Distributed by Elevated Achievement Group.

**Art and Photography:** cover © Flamingo Images/Shutterstock (mom and daughter), © insta\_photos/Shutterstock (girl), © Creativa Images/Shutterstock (boy); title page © Flamingo Images/Shutterstock (mom and daughter), © insta\_photos/Shutterstock (girl), © Creativa Images/Shutterstock (boy); p. 2 © Monkey Business Images/Shutterstock (boy), © Fabio Principe/Shutterstock (mother and son), © Yuliia D/Shutterstock (girl); p. 3 © Motortion Films/Shutterstock; p. 4 © fizkes/Shutterstock

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing. Requests for permission to make copies of any part of this publication may be emailed to: [info@elevatedachievement.com](mailto:info@elevatedachievement.com)

Printed in the United States of America  
SSO-TTK/1020/EXT

# Contents

Overview .....	2
Skill 1	
<b>Owning WHAT They Are Learning .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Skill 2	
<b>Owning HOW They Are Learning .....</b>	<b>17</b>
Skill 3	
<b>Owning HOW WELL They Are Learning .....</b>	<b>25</b>
Skill 4	
<b>Owning TAKING RISKS as They Are Learning.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Skill 5	
<b>Owning Their READING .....</b>	<b>41</b>
Skill 6	
<b>Owning Their MATHEMATICS.....</b>	<b>55</b>
Skill 7	
<b>Owning How to REFLECT on Their Learning .....</b>	<b>69</b>
References .....	79

# Supporting Student Ownership at Home

Many students believe that learning only takes place within the confines of a school building. But we know that learning, and the skills of learning, transcend beyond the classroom walls. In today's environment, this has become especially clear as instructional delivery has shifted from the classroom to the home and to a hybrid of both. The *where* and *how* our children's schooling is ever-changing.

However, our charge and commitment remain the same—to educate our students to the best of our abilities. The good news is the decisions about what our children need to learn and what we can do to support our children's learning are in our hands. The better news is we are not alone. Parents and caregivers can be empowered to support their children. The best news is that the students themselves are the most effective advocates for their learning when they have the skills to own it.



## Why Taking Ownership Matters

The choices we make today will affect our students for years to come. If we are astute in our decision-making, decisions that foster student ownership, we can create the most independent group of learners ever developed.

After over twenty-five years in education, we at Elevated Achievement Group have seen all types of students take ownership of their learning. These students are not merely passengers in their education but active participants. Taking ownership allows them to increase their academic achievement across the board—not just in a specific content area and not just in the physical classroom.

John Hattie (2009) showed us that students who own their learning are more motivated to learn, and those students who are more motivated to learn actually learn more: "...it is the students themselves, in the end, not teachers, who decide what students will learn. Thus we must attend to what students are thinking, what their goals are, and why they would want to engage in learning what is offered in schools."

True success in education requires that students go beyond just *doing* or *understanding* school—the must *own* their learning. A student who owns their learning can state what they are learning and why, can explain how they learn best, can articulate when they are learning and when they are struggling and understands their role in any academic setting.

Thus, student ownership is best defined as a mindset. Students with an ownership mindset know they have the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to own their learning.



# Delegating the Authority, the Capacity, and the Responsibility to Your Learners

Student ownership is a skill that can be directly taught and mastered. It can be developed in any learning environment, be it virtual, blended, or in-person. But, student ownership is almost impossible to develop without teachers. Teachers play a crucial role in ensuring that students recognize their role in learning and that parents and caregivers recognize their role in supporting their child.

How can we as teachers support our students to cultivate an ownership mindset? By delegating the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to them.

Successful students will have the authority to make decisions regarding how they learn. This means that, when students are learning something new, they have the authority to determine what they need in order to master that skill—for example, frequency and types of practice, specific opportunities to authentically apply learning, and more opportunities to transfer learning into new situations. It is the role of the teachers to ensure that students have the authority to make decisions about how they learn.

Students must also have the capacity to own their learning. They build their capacity when teachers provide them with the knowledge and skills to challenge themselves and self-reflect on their growth. These are the skills that lead to metacognition. Capacity is built by supplying students with the skills needed to succeed, sharing why they need them, and explaining how they will use them in their current and future learning. It is the role of teachers to ensure that students have the capacity to analyze and reflect on their own learning.

Finally, students must have the responsibility to be held accountable for their own academic achievements. Students must understand their role in their learning in any environment and take responsibility for their successes as well as their mistakes. But they can't be held responsible if they have no understanding of what they are learning how they will be taught and how they will demonstrate their learning.

So, how does a teacher build the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility needed for student ownership? A teacher must model the thinking behind the ownership, explicitly teach the skills of ownership, and, most importantly, be willing to delegate the authority, the capacity, and the responsibility to the students.





# Using This Book

Grounded in a variety of research about what best supports students to increase ownership of their learning, we have developed these resources to support educators, students, and families in ensuring that learning continues anytime, anyplace, and in any format, thereby fostering student ownership.

## **This book includes support for owning:**

1. What They Are Learning
2. How They Are Learning
3. How Well They Are Learning
4. Taking Risks as They Are Learning
5. Their Reading
6. Their Mathematics
7. How to Reflect on Their Learning

For each skill there are resources for teachers, students, and parents and caregivers. Each resource provides:

- ✓ The learning context for the skill, aka why this learning is important,
- ✓ The process for how to implement and master the skill, and
- ✓ Additional supports for ensuring the learning continues.

# Using the Teacher Resources

Use these pages when planning for the assignments you send home. Then include the **Own It!** information and the related student and parents and caregivers resources with each and every assignment.

*Research that supports WHY this skill is important for students to learn*

*Specific information about what and how to support your students to OWN IT! at home*

<p><b>Teachers</b></p> <p><b>Why</b> is supporting my students how to <b>OWN WHAT they are learning</b> important?</p>	<p><b>SKILL 1</b></p> <p><b>How</b> do I support my students to <b>OWN WHAT they are learning</b>?</p>
<p><b>The Research</b></p> <p>"The first question relates to goals—that is: 'Where am I going?' This means that teachers need to know, and communicate to students, the goals of the lesson—hence the importance of learning intentions and success criteria. What seems surprising is that many students cannot articulate the goals of the lesson..."</p> <p>—Hattie, 2011</p> <p>Students are more motivated and successful when they understand the learning goals and outcomes regarding the work to be done. In other words, it is imperative that students own what they are learning. This is especially true when students are working at home.</p> <p>Students are owning what they are learning when they can answer these questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ What am I learning in this assignment?</li> <li>▶ How will I know I have learned what I am supposed to learn?</li> <li>▶ How does this learning connect to what I already know?</li> <li>▶ How will I use this learning in the future?</li> </ul> <p>10 Supporting Student Ownership at Home: Owning WHAT They Are Learning</p>	<p><b>The Process</b></p> <p>Include with each and every assignment or group of assignment this <b>Own It!</b> information as a part of the directions you send home to your students:</p> <p><b>Own It!</b> <b>Owning WHAT You Are Learning</b></p> <p>True learning happens when you own your learning. This information will help you own what you are learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ You are learning about ( <u>      content or topic      </u> )</li> <li>▶ You are learning how to ( <u>      skill      </u> )</li> <li>▶ You will know you have learned it when...</li> <li>▶ You are learning this because...</li> <li>▶ You will use this in the future to...</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Support</b></p> <p>Learning at home is important, but teachers can't do it alone. Ensure that your students are motivated to be active participants in their own learning and that their families and caregivers are empowered to support their children in learning by sharing the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Own It!</b> information for each and every assignment.</li> <li>• Student resource for <b>How to Own WHAT You Are Learning</b> found on pages 12 and 13 with each and every student.</li> <li>• Parents and Caregivers resource for <b>Support Your Child to Own WHAT They Are Learning</b> found on pages 14 and 15 with each and every caregiver.</li> </ul> <p>Supporting Student Ownership at Home: Owning WHAT They Are Learning 11</p>

**KEY QUESTIONS** for students to ask and answer that demonstrate they are owning their learning

**Tips for how to increase student ownership with ADDITIONAL SUPPORT**



# Using the Student and Parents and Caregiver Resources

Send these pages home to each and every student and their parents and caregivers with your related **Own It!** information for the assignment.

Information that supports **WHY** this skill is important for students to learn

Jóvenes
DESTREZA  
1

cómo *Ser Dueño de LO QUE Aprendes*

---

Students
SKILL  
1

How to *Own WHAT You Are Learning*

When you own your learning, it's yours. It belongs to you. No one else can ever take it away. Learning at home is a perfect opportunity for you to learn how to take ownership of your own learning. For you to do this, you simply need to know some key information about the work you are doing at home.

This **Own It!** guide will help you. Use it with each assignment you do at home.

**Own It!** *Owning WHAT I Am Learning*

True learning happens when I own my learning. Being able to answer these questions, shows that I am owning what I am learning.

• What am I learning in this assignment?	• I am learning about... (content or topic)
• How will I know I have learned what I am supposed to learn?	• I am learning how to... (skill)
• Why am I learning this?	• I am learning this because...
• How will I use this learning in the future?	• I will use this in the future to...

If you struggle...

- Look back at the directions. Read, and reread, them for clues.
- Call a classmate and ask them.
- Ask your parent or caregiver.
- Call, text, or email your teacher.

12

Padres y Cuidadores
DESTREZA  
1

Apoye a Su Hijo de *Ser Dueño de LO QUE Aprende*

---

Parents and Caregivers
SKILL  
1

Support Your Child to *Own WHAT They Are Learning*

Research shows that students are more motivated and successful when they know and can state what they are learning, how they will know they have learned it, and why it is important. In other words, your child is owning what they are learning when they can answer these questions. Your role is to help your child find the answers.

- ▶ What am I learning in this assignment?
- ▶ How will I know I have learned what I am supposed to learn?
- ▶ Why am I learning this?
- ▶ How will I use this learning in the future?

This **Own It!** guide will help you. Use it to support your child in owning what they are learning.

**Own It!** *Supporting Your Child in Owning WHAT They Are Learning*

Before your child begins working, talk to them about the assignment. Use these questions to support their ownership of what they are learning.

- ▶ What content are you learning in this assignment?
- ▶ What skill are you learning in this assignment?
- ▶ How will you know that you have learned what you are supposed to learn?
- ▶ Why are you learning this?
- ▶ How will you use this learning in the future?

If your child struggles...

- Read the teacher's directions with your child and see if there are details that will help clarify.
- Ask your child what they think they are learning and how it connects to what they were doing in class.
- Tell them what you think they are learning and why.
- Help them contact the teacher asking for clarification.

14

**OWN IT!** guides for students and parents and caregivers that support what to do and provide conversation starters that build student ownership

Additional support tips if students **STRUGGLE**