

# Survival Kit - The Child's School

English learning resource · EN

## Key words & expressions · English

12 learning entries

**Study task:** Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

### to nod along

DEF

To keep nodding as if you understand or agree.

*It can imply that someone is pretending to follow a conversation.*

*Do not simply nod along if the explanation is unclear.*

*He nodded along even though he had lost the thread.*

2

### a parent-teacher meeting

DEF

A scheduled conversation between a child's family and teacher.

*Parent-teacher conference is common in American English.*

*She prepared three questions for the parent-teacher meeting.*

*The teacher discussed his progress at the parent-teacher meeting.*

3

### an area of improvement

DEF

A skill or behaviour that could become better.

*Often used as a constructive alternative to weakness.*

*Could we focus on one area of improvement first?*

*Pronunciation is one area of improvement in her English.*

4

### to redirect the pace

DEF

To actively change how quickly a conversation or activity is moving.

*Redirect means guide something in a different direction.*

*The question helped her redirect the pace of the meeting.*

*Ask for a pause if you need to redirect the pace.*

5

### to break something into manageable pieces

DEF

To divide a difficult task into smaller, easier parts.

*A widely useful learning and problem-solving metaphor.*

*Break the explanation into manageable pieces.*

*He broke the project into manageable pieces.*



6

**to set a boundary**

DEF

To clearly state a limit or condition that should be respected.

*Common in work, relationships and wellbeing contexts.*

*Asking for one topic at a time sets a boundary.*

*She set a boundary around after-hours calls.*

7

**to report an absence**

DEF

To officially tell a school or employer that someone will not attend.

*Report is the formal action; explain the reason only if necessary.*

*Call the office to report an absence.*

*Parents can report an absence through the school app.*

8

**to be absent from school**

DEF

Not to attend school on a particular day.

*Absent is an adjective and normally takes from.*

*My child will be absent from school today.*

*He was absent from school because of a fever.*

9

**after-school pick-up**

DEF

The time or process of collecting a child after classes.

*Pick-up is a noun here; pick up is the corresponding phrasal verb.*

*I want to confirm the after-school pick-up time.*

*Traffic is heavy during after-school pick-up.*

10

**extra activities**

DEF

Optional clubs, sports or lessons outside normal classes.

*Extracurricular activities is the more formal term.*

*Are the extra activities still running today?*

*She joined two extra activities this term.*

11

**to leave the premises**

DEF

To go away from the building and the land around it.

*Premises is plural in form but can refer to one business or institution.*

*Please confirm the time before you leave the premises.*

*Visitors must sign out before leaving the premises.*



12

**to take up space**

DEF

To confidently occupy a place or role without apologising for being there.

*Literal in some contexts, but figurative here: assert your right to participate.*

*You are allowed to take up space in your child's education.*

*She learned to take up space in professional meetings.*

