

## **How Much Help Should I Give My Son When He Is Completing an Internal Assessment?**

Many internal assessment tasks require research and/or completion at home rather than being done in class time.

As a parent you are encouraged to take an interest in assignment work, but the question of how much help a parent or other family member can give a student when he is completing a task at home needs to be clarified.

Our NCEA policy clearly states that all work submitted for marking must be a student's own work. All parents/caregivers have signed a statement agreeing to and acknowledging this. However, this does not mean that a parent cannot give any help. There are some forms of assistance that are clearly acceptable. These include:

- Explaining terms or phrases
- Checking spelling (except for writing assessments in English)
- Giving ideas on presentation
- Making suggestions on paragraph structure or order e.g. "move this part to there" (except for writing assessments in English)
- Helping to access resources such as books or websites

There are just as clearly some forms of help that are unacceptable. These include:

- Writing part of the assessment
- Writing all of the assessment

From my perspective, the over-riding idea is that if you are in any doubt about whether or not to provide help with an internal assessment – don't!

Instead, encourage your son to ask for the assistance of his teacher. Some answers will not be able to be given, but help of the wrong sort from parents can only lead to awkward conversations for both you and your son. Remember that NCEA is a student qualification!

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