

Supporting your child with Literacy

Below are ideas you can use to support your child in developing their skills across the Literacy curriculum.

- Look for writing in the world around you – signs, recipes, instructions. Discuss why it is important to be able to read this information, and encourage them to look for letters they recognise.
- Develop a love for reading – read to your child regularly, using books they have chosen. Help them to understand that reading is enjoyable and useful, not just something they have to do for school!
- Find time for your child to read to you regularly – this includes school books, library books, magazines etc. Remember to go through the range of books eg stories, poetry, information (non-fiction), plays, magazines.
- If your child chooses a book that is beyond their reading ability, ask them to look for High Frequency Words they know such as ‘the, was, said’, and support them to either sound out unknown words, or by reading to them.
- Once your child is able to read a book fairly easily, begin to develop comprehension and fluency through asking questions and pointing out punctuation.
- When reading a book, ask your child how they might change the ending, what new character they could add etc. If they would like to, they could write this.
- Help your child to develop a comfortable pencil grip and to sit correctly when writing, colouring etc.
- Use the letter formation sheet (below) to show your child how to form the letters correctly. Help them to start their letters in the correct place, and to put letters on the line
- Support your child in writing thank you notes after birthdays, and cards, letters, or emails to family members.
- Ask them to write a shopping list, then help find the items on it in the shop. This way they will have to re-read what they have written, an important skill.
- Ask your child to draw a picture of something they have seen then add labels and a caption.
- Keep a diary or scrapbook in the holidays – stick in photos, tickets and maps from places you have visited etc; your child can then annotate the pictures, or add a short diary entry each day.
- We remind children to ‘think then write’, and to check their work when they are done. Please encourage this at home if they are doing any writing.
- Act out familiar stories with your child, or encourage them to do this with their friends and put on a performance for you. They could make posters, ‘sell’ tickets etc.
- Help your child to learn some simple poems or nursery rhymes off by heart and to perform them to family members or friends – they could try different voices and volumes.

Please make the activities fun and active so children enjoy them.

Praise their attempts so they gain confidence to “have a go”

Focus on “talking and doing”, to help improve their understanding and vocabulary, rather than writing.

Websites:

- <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/about/faqs/filter/supporting%20children#q484>
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/literacy.shtml
- <http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>