

Helping Your Child at Home - Year 1

Reading

How to Support Reading Fluency:

- Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.
- Each week, the decodable reading practice book that your child will read in school will be sent home.
- This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level and is fully decodable. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.
- Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.
- In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. In addition to the decodable reader, reading for pleasure books will also go home.
- Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!
- Reading diaries are used to ensure communication between home and school.

How to Support Comprehension:

- Ask many different types of comprehension questions
 - Discuss stories that you have read
 - Make links to your own experiences
 - Identify similarities and differences
 - Check for understanding at the end of each page or paragraph by asking your child to re-tell that section in their own words
 - Pretend you don't understand e.g. 'I wonder why she did that?'
 - Discuss the meaning of unknown words
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- A word of caution:
 - It can be easier to try asking comprehension questions when you are reading to your child
 - If they are reading to you, it should be a book which they can read 'comfortably'
 - Use these methods sparingly, sometimes just enjoy the story



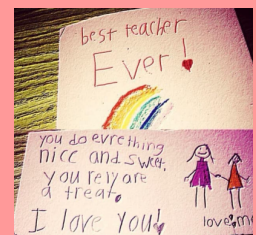
Useful Websites:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| LWLS Phonics | https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/ |
| | Phonics Screening https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video |
| Phonics Games and rhymes | Phonics Play - https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ |
| | Phonics Bloom - https://www.phonicsbloom.com/ |
| | Star Fall - https://www.starfall.com/h/ltr-classic/ |
| | ABC Phonics - https://www.abcpbonics.com/ |
| Free Online Books | Oxford Owl - https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page |
| | Book Trust - https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games |
| | Free eBooks for Kids: https://www.tckpublishing.com/free-ebooks-for-kids |
| | Teachpal: Free ebooks for Children - https://www.teachpal.co.uk/posts/free-ebooks-for-children |

Writing

How to Support Composition:

- Discuss stories with your child.
- Look at stories in different formats e.g. dance, comics, story CDs, theatre performances.
- Write for a variety of reasons at home e.g. stories, non-fiction writing, shopping lists, thank you letters, notes to someone in the family.
- Write little and often - but always for a purpose. It should not feel like a chore.



How to Support Spelling:

- Use letter names to describe sounds e.g. c, h makes the 'ch' sound.
- Completing online games together.
- Learn to spell common exception words and the days of the week using 'look, cover, write, check' or by writing the words repeatedly, chanting the spellings, using mnemonics, writing in sand or bubble writing.
- Create fun ways to learn spellings using games and a variety of resources you can find at home:



Create With Colour

Write your words with each letter in a different colour, or write them with all the vowels in blue and all the consonants in red.

spelling
spelling

Capital Idea

Write your words three times each in capital letters.

SPELLING
SPELLING
SPELLING

Learn Your ABC

Write your words in alphabetical order, then rewrite them in order of the second letter, third letter and so on.

my
words
spelling
spelling
words
my

Take a Test

Ask someone at home to test you by reading each word as you write it down. To make it more of a challenge, set a time limit, for example 20 seconds per word.

1. my
2. spelling
3. words

Picture This

Include each of your words in a funny picture that makes you think of the word.



Build a Sentence

Write each of your words in a sentence. See if you can build your sentences into a story.

One day a huge
spelling monster
came to my town
and ate all the
words!

Keep Copying

Write your words out three times each. Use different colours if you want to.

spelling
spelling
spelling

Make the Headlines

Cut letters out of newspapers or magazines and stick them onto paper to make the words in your list.



Build a Pyramid

Make a pyramid using the letters in your words.

W
wo
wor
word
words

Common Exeption Words:

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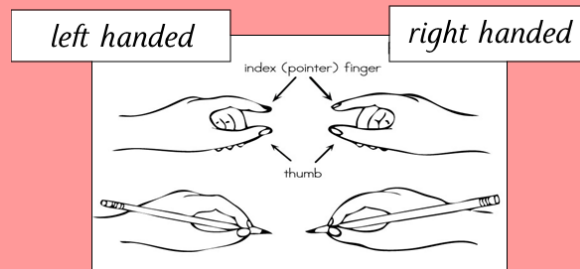
| | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| the | they | one |
| a | be | once |
| do | he | ask |
| to | me | friend |
| today | she | school |
| of | we | put |
| said | no | push |
| says | go | pull |
| are | so | full |
| were | by | house |
| was | my | our |
| is | here | |
| his | there | |
| has | where | |
| I | love | |
| you | come | |
| your | some | |

Useful Websites:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Top Marks | https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds |
| Crickweb | http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks1literacy.html |
| Spellzone | https://www.spellzone.com/word_lists/index.cfm |

How to Support Handwriting:

- Encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip at all times.
- Develop Fine Motor Skills through play, for example using playdoh, sewing and building Lego.
- Don't correct every letter on each piece of writing. Pick a couple of letters in the same family and focus on those before moving on.



How to Support Letter Formation:



The tramlines we use during our daily handwriting sessions are known as 'sky, grass, ground' lines.

Grass Letters: short letters that sit entirely in the grass section

- *a, c, e, i, m, n, o, r, s, u, v, w, x, z*

Sky Letters: tall letters that stretch up to the sky

- *b, d, f, h, k, l & all capital letters*

Ground Letters: swing below the line and go into the ground

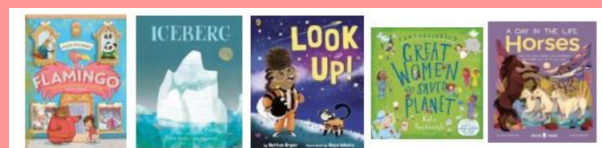
- *f, g, j, y, p*

The letters 't' is the only letter of it's size i.e. between a short and tall letter

In Conclusion:

You can support your child at home by:

- Reading the weekly learning leaflet and focusing on those sounds, words, texts.
- Familiarising yourself with the 44 sounds and their alternatives – use them in reading and writing.
- Helping your child to learn their spellings.
- Asking comprehension questions when reading.
- Discussing language in stories that you read to your child.
- Enjoying and exploring stories and books.
- Remember:



“Reading to your child daily has a direct and positive impact on their vocabulary and this is further enhanced if you read to them in an interactive way. This means delving into the content of the story, and encouraging them to ask questions and make predictions. When reading aloud, images, humour, tone of voice, exaggerated facial expressions, and gestures all strengthen understanding and retention”.

