

Reading

What happens at school?

How can you help at home?

Encouraging a love for reading

The first and most important factor when teaching children to read is to establish an interest and love of print and books. This gives children a reason for learning, it provides them with the answer to 'why' they should learn to read.

How can we develop a love of reading?

At home

- Read regularly to your child
- Set a good example
- Show children how important reading is by reading letters and signs together
- Encourage your child to read familiar food labels and every day 'brand' names.
- Using books to find out information.
- Male role models.

At school

- Sharing big books
- Story time
- Looking at non-fiction books
- Reading and sending messages
- Sharing books individually with an adult or older child
- Guided reading.
- School Library visits

Sharing Books at home and Reading to your child

Sharing books with your child provides a powerful foundation on which to build. You can teach your child a range of invaluable skills when sharing books that which they will use in their independent reading;

- Which way up we hold the book and how we turn the pages
- We read from left to right and top to bottom
- The pictures can give us clues about the story or information in the book – try to encourage story telling using pictures
- Extending vocabulary – explain meaning of any new words, or ask your child the meaning.
- Reading is fun and to be enjoyed and has a purpose.

Sharing books and reading to your child continues to be important even when and your child is a fluent reader.

Good Practice at home

- Ensure that there are lots of accessible books available to your child.
- Choose a quiet and calm place at home with no distractions to read with your child
- Make story time enjoyable
- Choose a book together
- Always talk about the book as you read and ask questions such as ‘Why did that happen? What do you think might happen next? ‘Did you notice...?’
- Encourage your child to join in with any repeating phrases.
- Talk about the book after you have read it, ask your child what they liked about it and what they didn’t like about it.

Reading Scheme Books

Learning Opportunities: When your child brings home a book from school these are the things you could focus on....

- Locate title
- Open front cover
- Turn pages appropriately and understand that left page comes before right
- Understand that we read phrases or sentences from left to right
- Match spoken word to written word by pointing to the text as child reads
- Predict the story line and some vocabulary
- Draw attention to any repeating phrases or language patterns within the book.
- Remember to talk about the story and check your child's understanding.
- Look out for individual words that are repeated
- Point out High Frequency Words that the children may know (I, a, the,)
- Talk about initial sounds in words
- Begin to model or support your child to blend simple cvc word
- Remember to give lots of praise and positive feedback!

Letters and Sounds

- Children will be working within first three phases

Letters and sounds

Phase 1

- Supports 'Letters and Sounds' by encouraging children to listen to and distinguish between different sounds so that later on they can use this skill when they begin to hear sound within words and the order in which they occur.
- There are 7 aspects within Phase 1 and these are... Environmental Sounds, Instrumental Sounds, Body Percussion, Rhythm and rhyme, Alliteration, Voice Sounds and Oral blending and segmenting.
- The children will have been engaging in activities linked to these aspects at pre-school.

Letters and Sounds

Phase 2

- Children in Phase 2 should be able to blend and segment words orally and will have experienced a wealth of listening activities.
- They will be introduced to 19 letters and by the end of the phase the children should be able to read and spell vc and cvc using these letters
- Set 1: s a t p
- Set 2: i n m d
- Set 3: g o c k
- Set 4: ck e u r
- Set 5: h b f,ff l,ll ss
- They will also learn to read some tricky words (the, to go, no)

Letters and Sounds

Phase 3

- The children will be taught a further 25 phoneme/graphemes- most of these comprising 2 letters
- Set 6: j v w x
- Set 7: y z,zz qu
- ch sh th ng ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow ear air ure er
- Tricky words the, to, no, go, I, the, to, he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, they, her, all

Phonics – Letters and Sounds

Phase 2

- Every day your child will be introduced to a new phoneme (s a t p i n). A phoneme is a sound that a letter or groups of letters make within a word.
- Each week we will send home the phonemes that your child has been learning so that you can consolidate at home.
- Linking letters to their sounds will enable children to blend sounds together to read words – this is called decoding. As the children learn to link letters to their sounds they will be able to blend and read decodeable words.
- Each week your child will be given some ‘tricky’ words to learn
- Practise these at home – you could make them into word cards and stick them around the house or even by their bed!
- These words need to be learnt and remembered as they can not be ‘sounded out’ or decoded (the, into, go, no, I)

Good Practice at Home

- Practise phonemes as they get sent home and revisit previously learnt letters.
- Arrange the letters to form simple words and encourage children to blend sounds to decode words.
- Put tricky words around the house and ask your child to read them.
- Encourage your child to hear sounds within words by sounding out words for example, would you like the j-a-m?, playing “I spy...”

Useful Websites

- If your child has access to a computer at home, these websites are great for supporting your child in consolidating their skills at home
- CBeebies – ‘Alphablocks’
- Letters and Sounds- Phase 1 and 2 games
- LOLA – Reception Literacy games