

Helping your Child at Home

The most important message to give your child is that learning is fun! Most of the learning you can do with your child at this stage in their development is through talking and playing games together.

- Talk to your child about what they are learning at school
- Encourage them to find out things for themselves
- Read books with your child
- Take them to the local library and help them to choose books
- Let your child help you around the home
- Listen to your child. Encourage them to ask questions. If you do not have the answer, why not find out together?

How You Can Help With Homework

Although homework can be completed by children independently, we suggest parents and carers are actively involved in supporting their children's homework as this will make it most meaningful.

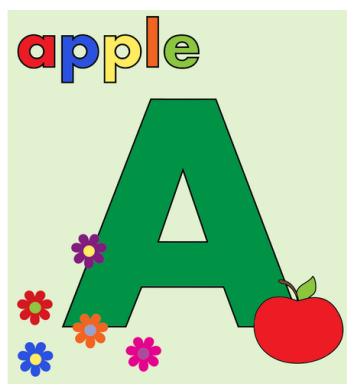
- Spread the homework over several days rather than trying to complete it in one long session
- Make sure your child has a quiet place to work with no distractions
- Talk through the activity with your child before they start
- Encourage and praise them when they have completed the activities
- Listen to them as they read and show you what they have done
- Check that they remember the meanings of words
- Visit the library and get books out on topics they may be studying
- Extend the activities where appropriate



Reading With Your Child

Children learn about reading by listening to stories, by making up a story as they turn the pages of a book and by reading print of all kinds. Reading with your child is one of the best ways to help your child learn to read. If reading is fun, your child will want to read with you.

- Find a relaxing and comfortable place to read together away from distractions.
- Choose a time when you both want to read. If your child is too tired, then choose an earlier time.
- Let your child choose which book to read. It is important for them to feel engaged with the book. Children will often choose favourite stories which they know by heart. This is fine and a normal part of learning to read.
- Before starting to read the story, talk about the cover, the title and the author and what the book may be about.
- Do not always read the book straight through to the end. As you read, pause to talk about the pictures, discuss what has happened and what may happen next.
- Try to engage your child in the text as well as the pictures. Even at an early stage, encourage them to read some of the words in the text.
- Have your child look closely at words by finding those that look the same, rhyme or start with the same letter
- Always praise your child, particularly when they have corrected themselves. This helps build up confidence and makes reading pleasurable.
- After finishing the book, talk about it together
- As your child becomes a more confident reader, encourage them to read by themselves a little each day. This should be in addition to them reading with you.



Phonics

Phonics are a key part of early reading. If you have internet access at home, there are many good interactive games and activities online to help practice phonics. Please see the list of useful websites on our class page.

Writing With Your Child

Learning to write well is an important communication skill. Children learn about writing from watching others and from the writing they see around them – things like adverts, notes, papers and letters. One of the most important ways to encourage your child to write is by providing them with a model of a writer – you!

- Always praise your child to develop their confidence as a writer. Even if their writing is not entirely recognisable.
- Choose a time when your child wants to write and when you are able to help. However, if your child is reluctant, don't insist.
- Talk with your child before they begin to write. This will help them clarify their ideas.
- Encourage your child to try to write for themselves, even if they make mistakes.
- Suggest they have a go with words that they don't know how to spell. They need to say the word slowly and write down the sounds they hear.
- As your child begins to write at home, do not over-emphasise neatness in their writing attempts. When children write, they need to get their ideas down first.
- Ask your child to read their writing to you as they write and when they have finished. This will help them understand the importance of the reader.
- Children need to feel that they are writing for a purpose. This can be in the form of letters to friends, stories, shopping lists, making and writing greeting cards, plans for a party, postcards and diaries.
- Children can often be encouraged to write if they have nice notebooks or mini whiteboards to use



Helping Your Child With Maths

Here are some suggestions of games you can play together with young children:

How Many? – At home or when you are out, ask your child to count the number of objects they can see. At first, they may need to be able to touch the objects to count successfully. A good technique is to ‘touch, count, move’ so they do not count the same object more than once.

Counting Up and Down – Ask your child to count up e.g. from zero to twenty. Then count down from twenty to zero. Try asking them to count from a different number e.g. count up from 8 or count down from 14

Number Spotting – Often during the day, ask your child what numbers they can see. There are often many numbers at home they can read. While out, ask your children to read house numbers, telephone numbers on shop signs, bus numbers etc.

Doubling and Halving Numbers – Give your child numbers to double. How many can they get correct in one minute?

Number Bonds – Ask your child to say two numbers that add up to 10 or 20. Can they remember all the pairs of numbers by heart?

Board and Card Games - Snakes and Ladders, Ludo, Bingo etc

Role Play and Real Life Experiences – shopping, menus, cooking (dividing food into fractions, doubling a recipe) Link it to the child’s interests – football league tables, tennis results, swimming lengths

Measuring – lengths, weights, capacity using tape measures, scales and jugs

Online Games – If you have online access, there are many good interactive games and activities to practice maths.

Please remember to support your child and ensure they stay safe online.