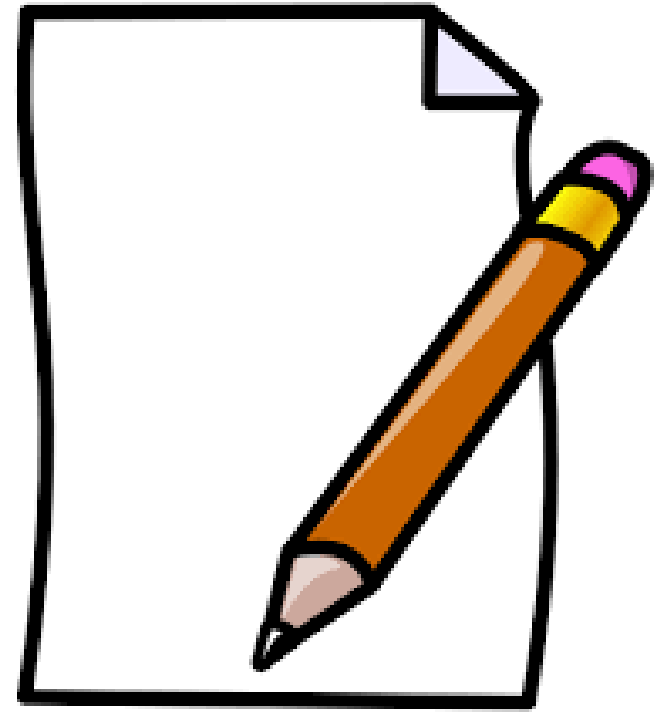
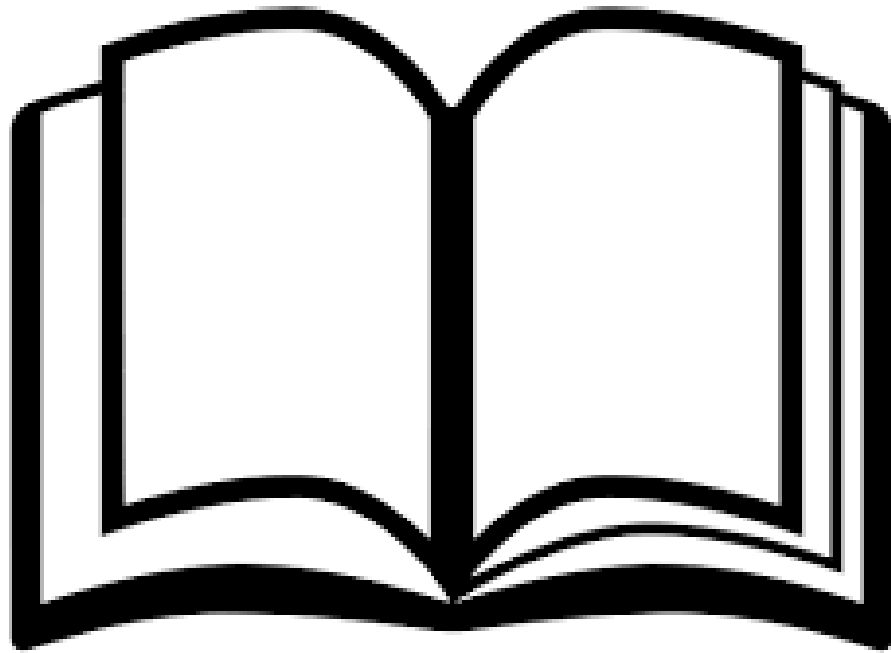


How to help your child with early reading and writing



Why read?

- It's fun!
- Reading with your child provides time with a loved adult in a safe space.
- It's a chance to have some quality time together.
- It provides an imaginary escape.
- It helps children understand the world around them and helps them develop an understanding of emotions.
- It builds vocabulary and curiosity.
- It's a key life skill.



A large orange circle occupies the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

Reading

‘It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading.’

DFE – Early Years Statutory Framework

Regular sharing of books and discussion of children’s ideas and responses helps children to develop their early enjoyment and understanding of books.





Shared Reading

What to do at home...

Share a book together. It might be a story, a rhyme or a non-fiction book. Children could have a choice too! Remember to also read the books that you are given from school as these will be related to their phonics learning.

- Look at the front cover and talk about what the book might be about.
- Read the book to your child or child to read the book to you. You could take it in turns too. Point to the words as you read.
- Halfway through, ask what might happen next or ask other questions about what has happened.
- When the book is finished, ask questions about the text. For example: What picture did you like? Who was your favourite character? How did they feel?
- Discuss new vocabulary.
- Read the same book often. It builds confidence and fluency.

Phonics



<https://youtu.be/44mZZQfgkjY> 00:27 - 4:13

Phonics

- Phonics is the relationship between letters and the sounds that letters make.
- The correct pronunciation of sounds is important. Keep the sound pure.
- Reading books that come home should be matched to the child's phonic level. They should be able to read this book independently and fluently to build confidence and fluency.
- If your child cannot read a word, encourage them to 'sound it out'. Break the word down (segment), then put back together (blend). For example, – goat – g oa t.
- Children should be reading books at 95% accuracy – if there are more than a couple of words they can't read, the book may be too hard.
- 'Tricky' words are words that you cannot sound out. Discuss parts of the word that you can sound out and what parts you cannot.
- There are lots of useful links on the school website to support you with phonics at home.

Bug Club Phonics

At school we follow Bug Club Phonics and we use other activities/resources to support learning. Your child has access to Bug Club phonics eBooks at home. These will be updated and closely matched to your child's phonetic knowledge.

There is a link on the school website under English to show you how to access Bug Club books at home.





What to read

- Anything!
- It could be the book your child brings home from school.
- It could be Bug Club or other online materials.
- Comics.
- Joke books.
- Graphic novels.
- Books/leaflets related to their interests.
- TV/Film books.
- Audiobooks.
- Many children go through stages of not wanting to read. Don't panic. Read to them if you can, they do come back to it.

Writing

- Writing begins with mark making. This may include writing cards, invitations or shopping lists. It's important that children understand that marks convey meaning and that they can tell someone what it says, even if it has not been written in recognisable letters.
- Motor skills are important for developing strength and co-ordination. Activities to help develop these skills might include climbing, swinging, threading beads, doing buttons or colouring. There are some ideas for more motor skills on school website.
- Another key element of writing is speech. To be able to write in sentences, children need to be able to speak in sentences. In school we always speak before we write.

Writing

- Holding a pencil correctly is important. Ensure a 'tripod' grip is used ([link on website](#)).
- Letter formation is taught in reception. A video on how to form letters correctly is on the school website.
- For many children, the first thing they learn to write is their name. It is only the first letter that should be a capital.
- When children are learning to write, we encourage them to 'sound out' words. This begins with the first and last sound of a word and then goes on to middle sounds.
- Children learn 'tricky words' through a 'look, say, cover, write and check' process. They discuss the parts of the word they can hear.
- Children practice writing a sentence with familiar sentence starters e.g. I can see... using a capital letter, finger spaces and full stop.

Writing at home

- Learning logs: complete in child's own way. You could agree on sentences together or your child could complete independently and then discuss this afterwards.

If your child wants to write at home, lots of things can be fun for them:

- Writing letters or emails to family.
- Writing cards or invitations.
- Having a little book to write stories in.
- Making cartoons with speech bubbles.
- Writing instructions for a game.
- Writing a postcard about a day out.
- Making posters.
- Mark making in creative ways – in sand, with water

Have fun!

Helping your child at home is great but it needs to be fun for everyone.

Don't let it become a battle – home is busy enough.

Seize 'sneaky' opportunities. Reading a title of a TV show, an advert, a recipe, a label on food, spotting road signs, writing an invitation or a Christmas wish list.



Thank you!
