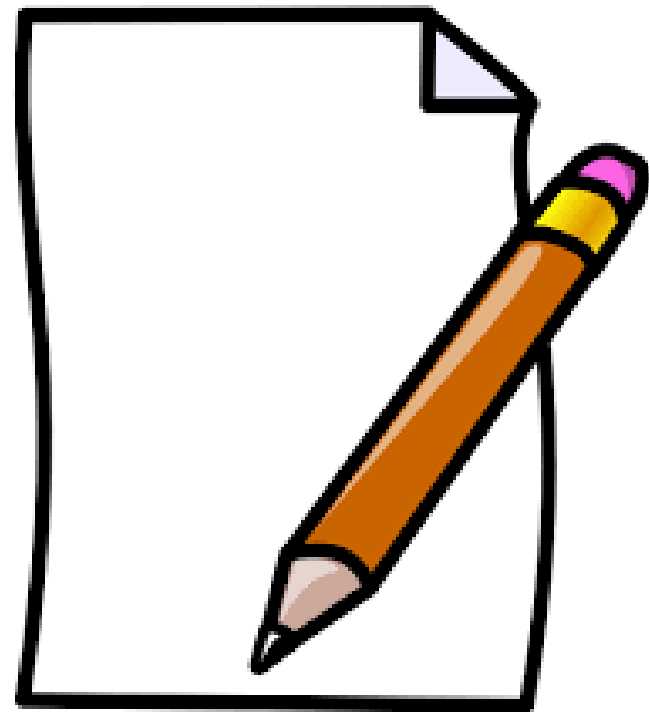
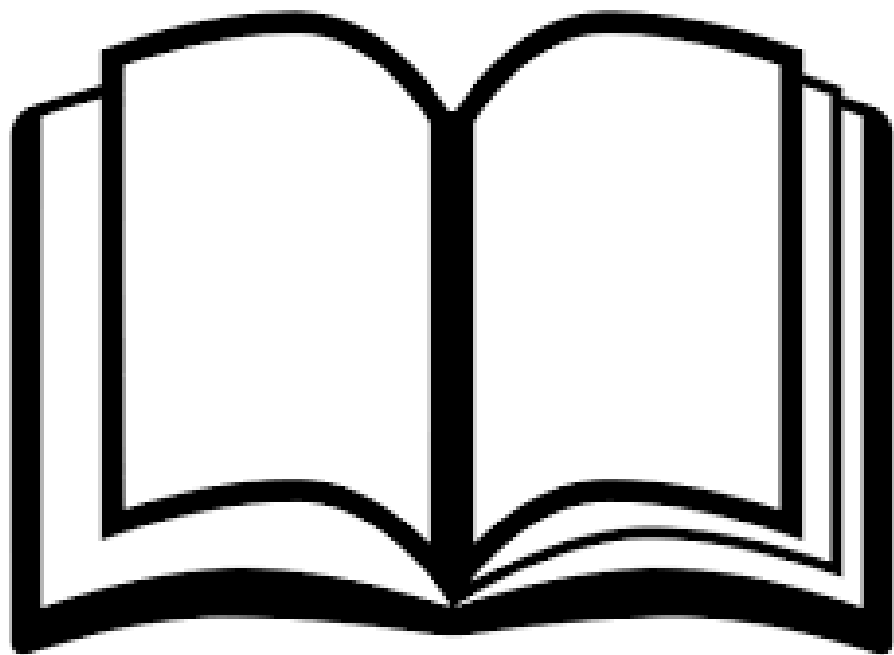


How to Help Your Child with Early Reading and Writing



Why read?

It's can build a love of books and stories and can develop a child's confidence.

Reading with your child provides time with a loved adult in a safe space.

It provides an imaginary escape and can spark imagination.

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.



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.

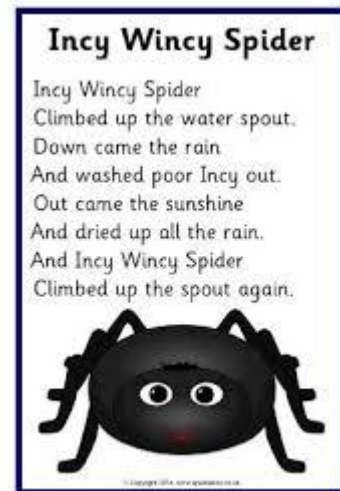
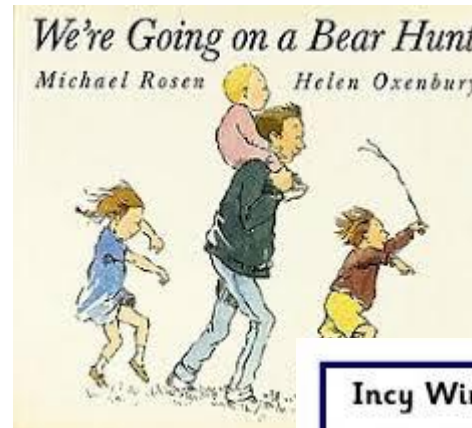




Shared Reading Book

What to do
at home...

Read as much as you can at home. It might be a story, a rhyme or a non-fiction book. Children can have a choice too! You could read a comic book, magazine or read words that you see out and about. You could also connect reading to your child's interests. Visit the local library to access a range of texts.



Shared Reading Book

What to do at home...

Talking about Books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable.

- 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 if they can. Point to the words as you read.
- Halfway through, ask what might happen next or ask other questions about what has happened so far.
- 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? How did the book make you feel?
- Discuss new vocabulary.
- Read the same book often.



Phonics

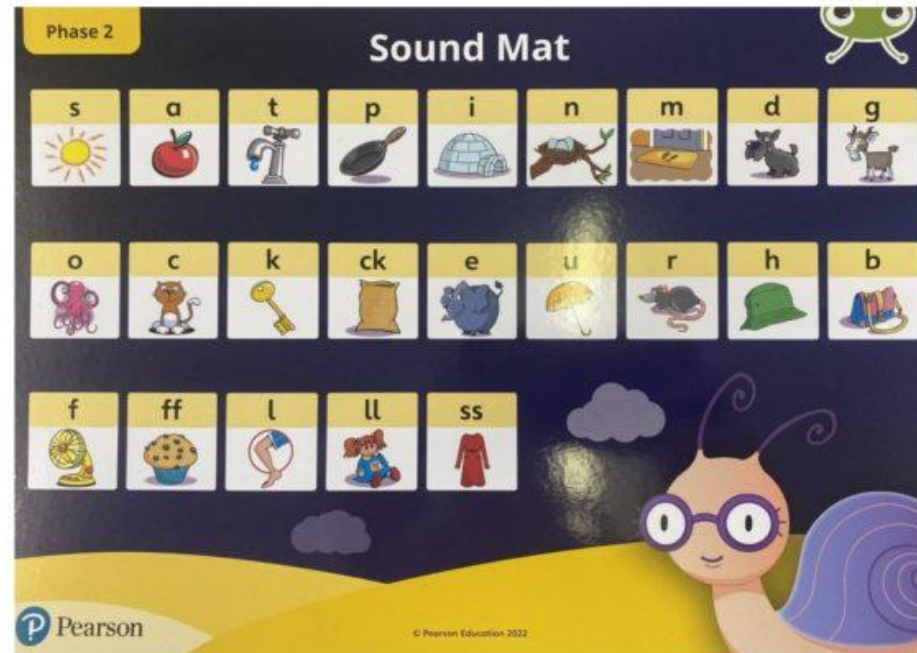


<https://youtu.be/44mZZQfgkjY> 00:27 - 4:13

Phonics

Phonics is the relationship between letters and the sounds that letters make. It is used to teach early reading.

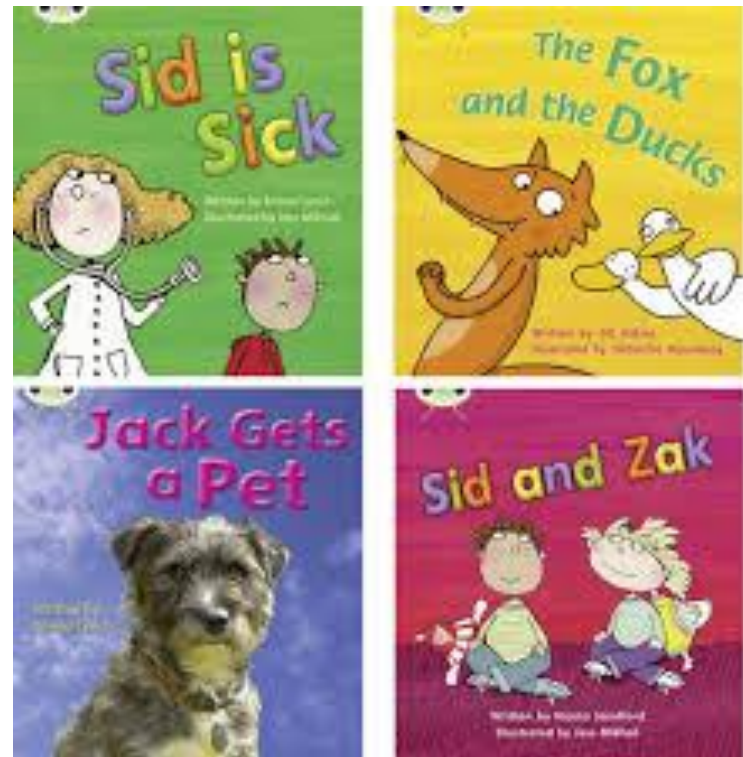
The correct pronunciation of sounds is important. Keep the sound pure. Links are available on the school website.



Reading Practice Book

Your child will receive a reading book that should be matched to your child's phonetic level.

They should be able to read this book using their phonetic knowledge. They should be able to read independently and fluently to build confidence and fluency.



Reading Practice Book

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.

'Tricky' words are words that you cannot sound out. Discuss parts of the word that you can sound out and what parts you cannot.

For example: she – sh(e)

There are lots of useful links on the school website to support you with phonics at home.

Ask your child questions about the story. What might happen next? How did they feel at the end?

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.

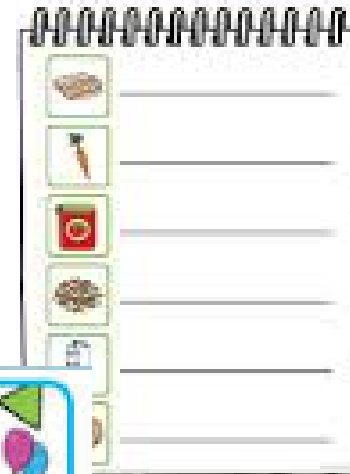


Writing

Mark Making

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.



Writing

Fine and Gross Motor Skills

Motor skills are important for developing strength and co-ordination. Activities to help develop these skills might include climbing, swinging, threading beads, doing up buttons or colouring. There are some ideas for gross and fine motor skills on the school website.



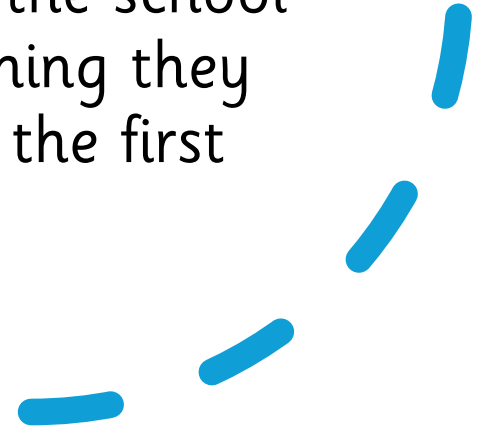
Writing

Pencil Grip and Letter Formation

Holding a pencil correctly is important. Ensure a 'tripod' grip is used ([link on website](#)). 'Pinch and Flip'



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.



Writing

When children are learning to write, we encourage them to 'sound out' words (segment). This begins with the first and last sound of a word and then progresses on to middle sounds.

For example: cat – 'ct' then 'cat'.

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. We always practise saying a sentence before writing.

Writing at home

Learning logs - complete in child's own way. You could agree on words/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!
