

LITERACY

Reading

At school, each day, the children have many varied experiences which contribute to their growing literacy skills. These include phonics lessons, story times and reading with an adult along with many play activities.

You can support your child's reading development by ensuring that they have a few minutes 'reading time' with you every day. Reading with a family member has a significant impact on a child's reading development.

In your 'reading time' you can:

- *Share the reading scheme books (don't forget to talk about the pictures)
- *Share your library books from school and the local library
- * Play tricky word games
- * Practise all the sounds of the alphabet and use cued articulation to support
- * Enjoy all your books at home as well
- *Don't forget that re-reading a familiar books is an important part of learning to read.

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Writing and Mark Making

Being a writer is about communicating an idea. Your child is a writer from the first time they make a mark (on paper, in the mud, on a blackboard etc.). At this early stage the most important thing is that they feel confident about writing and mark making.

At school we offer children lots of opportunities to communicate their thoughts and ideas through mark making and writing. As your child matures and gains experience, their knowledge of letters and words begins to show in their free and confident independent writing.

At home you could:

- *Support the 'have a go' philosophy ('What fantastic writing!', 'Use the letters you know...', 'Tell me what you had a go at writing...?', 'What were you thinking about when you wrote those words?')
- *Let children find reasons to write as they play (building plans, telephone messages, shopping lists, warning notes, appointments etc.).
- If they really want to copy your writing, involve them in working out how to write it. ('Which sounds can you hear in the word daddy?', 'Look, Granny begins with G', 'Say big in sound-talk')... Use lower case letters ('a' not 'A') except for names and at the start of sentences etc.

Digging for Dinosaurs



Ways to help at home...

MATHEMATICS

At home you could:

- *Count everything (objects and movements)
- *Sing number rhymes
- *Ask problems 'Who has got the most?' 'Which one is the tallest?' Use real objects or fingers to explain
- *Solve addition problems 'How many will you have if I give you one more?' 'How many have you got altogether?'
- *Play number games and board games, especially those which go along a track and which use dice
- *Use money
- * Notice numbers in the environment
- *Notice shapes around the home and when you are out (the names of shapes and what they are like e.g. straight, curved, wide, number of sides etc.)
- *Talk to your child about the measuring when you cook_together

WOW MOMENTS

We love to find out about your child's learning at home, particularly those things which we don't see at school such as learning to swim or taking more responsibility looking after themselves. Please remember to send in a Wow Sheet when these moments happen, we always celebrate these achievements in class and put them up on the wall.

PARENT READING: THURSDAY'S 3.00-3.10pm

Please encourage a love of reading and come and share a book with your child.