

Skills to help your child prepare for school

I can wash and dry my hands and know why it is important to do this.

I have a good bedtime routine so I won't feel tired for school.

I can dress and undress myself, including putting my shoes on.

I can use a knife and fork by myself and cut up my food.

I can open wrappers and packaging by myself.



Developing
independence
and
confidence for
starting school

I can go to the toilet by myself, wipe myself properly and flush the toilet.

I can share toys with others and take turns when playing games.

I can tidy my belongings away and look after my things.

I can ask for help when I need it.

I am feeling confident about starting school!

How to help your child with Maths

When shopping, get your child to count out how many items or decide how big an amount you may need.

Play skittles - using ten cardboard tubes or plastic bottles filled with sand.

Play games such as snakes and ladders, ludo, cards or dominoes.

In the kitchen - cooking and comparing amounts.

Pretend to play shops! Make price tags and take turns to be the shopkeeper.

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Developing
enjoyment
of Maths at
home and
at school.

On a car journey, play number plate games. How many different numbers can they spot?

Make models using different shapes and talk about the shapes of packaging.

Encourage your child to lay the table and count out how many things are needed for each person.

Talk about Maths all around you and encourage your child to see the Maths you do every day!

Measure your child's height and talk about how much they've grown!

Maths Vocabulary

Here are some of the words we use at school to describe different mathematical terms:

Calculation/Number Sentence - what we used to call a 'sum'! A number sentence is a set of numbers, a function and a total e.g. $5+2=7$

Words for adding - total, sum, altogether, add, plus, more

Words for subtracting - take away, subtract, minus, less

Words for multiplication - lots of, times, multiplied by

Words for division - share, divide

Create a Magical Maths box

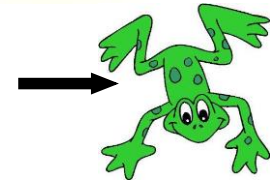
Young children are often fascinated by using real objects that we use every day to help us count and calculate. Encourage your child to make their own collection of Maths equipment:

- Counters (bottle tops are good!)
- Ruler
- Measuring tape
- Coins
- Natural objects to count and sort (stones and pinecones etc.)
- Remember to include some paper and pens so that they can record their findings!

How to help your child with Phonics



Fred, the Read
Write Inc. Frog



It's good to talk - Fred Talk!

Fred, the frog can only talk in pure sounds (for example, Fred would say d-o-g, we would say dog). Use Fred Talk occasionally when you speak to your child - ask them to pick up the r-e-d pen or put their toys back in the b-o-x. This will help them to see sounds as separate units.

Practise makes perfect!

The more you read, the better you get! Write down some simple words that contain 3 sounds (e.g. cat, dog) and ask your child to read them by blending the sounds together. This is a tricky concept so may take a while to master!

Boosting phonics confidence at home

All change!

Help your child change letters in words to make new words by adding a sound e.g. **at** - adding **p** = **pat** or by changing a sound e.g. changing **hat** to **sat** - what sound did we change?

I spy!

Play this popular game by asking your child to spy things that begin with a particular sound or pick words with a certain sound in the middle or end.

Time for a story!

Remember that reading is really all about stories and enjoying them! Try to make time to read your child a bedtime story so that they will be motivated to learn to read for themselves.

Sound of the Day!

Each day/week choose a different sound and write it on a Post-it note. Ask your child to stick the note onto an object that begins with that sound. How quickly can they find an object?

For more information about the Read Write Inc. phonics programme we use at school, please visit their website:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

How to help your child with reading

Before your child can read, let them tell the story from the pictures - talk about what they think will happen next.

Support your child to read menu choices in a restaurant.

Read text on the computer on your child's favourite website.

Share a comic with your child - this is particularly motivating for boys!

Model reading.... Show your child that you read newspapers, magazines etc.

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Developing enjoyment of reading at home and at school.

Read to your child often... even just a 5 minute bedtime story.

Encourage your child to notice and read print around them e.g. street and shop names, road signs etc.

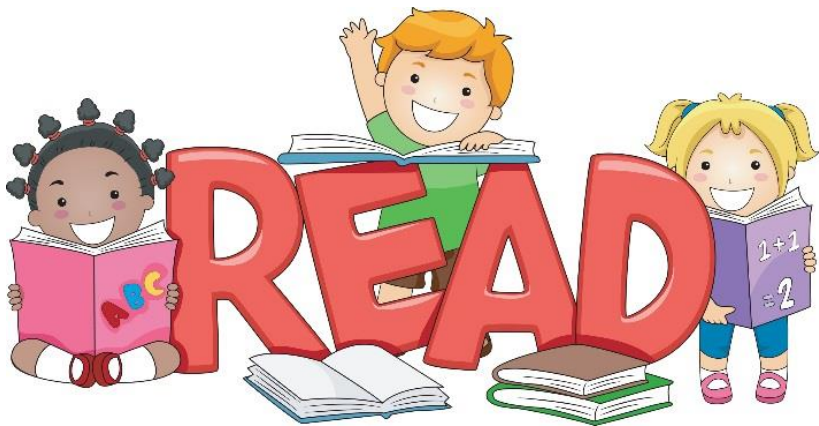
Make story boxes with props from around the house to go with a story and bring it to life.

Take a trip to your local library and explore the books there. It's free!

Read recipes together and decide what sounds good to make.

Create a Reading Library....

Create a home library of all your favourite books. Buying books does not have to be expensive! Try rummaging in charity shops, jumble sales and boot fairs. Try gathering books by favourite authors to make a set, or books on a particular theme that your child enjoys. Good authors include Julia Donaldson. Lauren Child and Eric Carle. You could also make groups of books that mirror the topic at school - the new and upcoming topics are sent home at the end of each term on the newsletter.



When your child is ready...listening to them read - a few pointers

- Try and find a place that's comfy and quiet - away from the television
- Talk about the book before you read it - children often repeat words you have used
- Encourage your child to hold the book the proper way, reading from left to right. Always use the 'context' of the pictures - never cover these up!
- Allow your child to try to 'sound out' words but supply the word if they are struggling. Remember to sound out using pure sounds
- Don't leave listening to reading until your child is tired - that's when they will enjoy you reading a story to them!

Happy Reading!

How to help your child with writing

Use modelling materials such as plasticine, playdough, bread dough

Thread beads, pasta or buttons. Set a timer - can they beat their own score?

Paint outdoor bricks with water and brushes or paint in the bath!

Make puppets and use these to retell favourite stories - stick ones are good!

Draw shapes and patterns in sand, in the air or use ribbons to make shapes and fly kites.



Developing enjoyment of writing at home and at school.

Make your own book and retell your favourite story.

Create a holiday diary and fill it with your holiday snaps and memories.

Encourage your child to write cards and letters to family members.

Write a shopping list with your child before you do your weekly shop.

Cut up old newspapers and magazines to make new words out of the letters on the page, or sentences out of words.

These are the letter shapes we use in school (please also refer to the Read Write Inc. letter formation sheets handed out in the welcome pack):

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u v w x y z

Key things to remember:

- Any mark making is a great experience!
- Try to discourage your child from using capital letters unless it is for the start of their name
- Reversals at this stage are very common - don't worry!
- Please use the purest sound when sounding out words with your child - 'mmm' NOT 'muh', 'sss' NOT 'suh'

Create a Writing Toolbox...

Here are some ideas for exciting writing materials that children can't resist!

- Different types of paper - coloured, lined, plain, shiny etc
- Pencils, biros, pens, chalks
- Alphabet charts
- Scrapbooks or exercise books
- Staplers, paper clips, hole punches, elastic bands
- Lots of these can be found in pound shops!

