



# Reception

## The Learning Journey

### How to help your child at home.

Every child develops in different ways and at varying rates. Learning is a continuous journey in which your child will build on what they have already experienced and come across new challenges.

The following information is intended to provide some guidance on how to promote your child's learning at home. However, should you need more individual advice please talk to your child's teacher.

There will be many natural opportunities for you to talk to your child about numbers, letters and sounds and the Seasons for example. But remember learning should be fun!

Listening to stories is an important part of learning to read and is a great help to your child's language development.

Look for short whole story books which can be read from start to finish without your child getting tired.

Let your child look at the pictures for clues about the story.

# Reading stories with your child

Stories should have a good mix of real and imaginary subjects.

Read the story slowly and make your voice interesting, your child will copy you when she/he reads.

Read the whole story to your child and then, pointing to every word, let your child try to say the words with you.

Choose a quiet comfortable place to read. Bedtime is usually a good opportunity.

# Reading in the Reception Year

In the Reception class, when the teacher feels that your child is ready, he/she will bring home:

- ❑ A picture book. Talk about the pictures, the characters and what might happen next in the story.
- ❑ As your child starts to blend sounds into words, for example 'c a t' cat they will be given reading books with words.
- ❑ We use a phonics programme called 'Read, Write, Inc'. It is important that your child pronounces the pure sounds. Follow this link to find out more [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J2Ddf\\_00m8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J2Ddf_00m8)
- ❑ When reading with your child, make it fun!
- ❑ Your child will bring a Reading Record Book home with their school reading book. Please write in this book when you read with your child to let us know how he/she is getting on at home.

# How does my child become a writer?

A writer is not just someone who can copy letters and words! A writer is someone who can write down their ideas on a page to be read and understood by a reader. Speaking, listening, reading and writing are all skills we need to be able to communicate with each other. These skills also help us to make sense of the world in which we live.

- ❑ Before a child can write they need to have something to say. They need to know that talk can be written down, for themselves and others to read.
- ❑ They need to have good control over the muscles and body movements needed to work their hands and fingers in the correct way.
- ❑ They need time and opportunity to draw and play to develop hand-eye co-ordination. At first a child may swap hands but will soon develop a preference for using their left or right hand.

Children learn best when activities are fun and interesting. By providing a few things at home you can provide a variety of writing experiences, for example...

- ✓ felts, crayons, chinks, water and paintbrushes for painting outside
- ✓ different colours and sizes of paper. You can recycle old cards, forms, junk mail, envelopes.
- ✓ make little books of folded paper, stapled or tied together.
- ✓ safety scissors
- ✓ SHARED TIME - it can be fun to do things with an adult or with an older child.

# Writing together....

You and your child can write together for real purposes. Here are some examples...

- Telephone messages.
- Shopping lists.
- Cards for birthdays and other celebrations.
- Party invitations.
- Filling in order forms.
- Notes to friends and family members
- Children enjoy pretend writing. By doing the above at home your child will learn the purposes of writing and make pretend versions in their play.
- Writing letter shapes takes a lot of control and so allow your child to write freely. Don't put your child off by saying it is wrong. When your child is practising writing their name, it is important to show correct letter formation.
- Your child will go through lots of stages as he/she learns to write. Should you have any questions, ask your child's teacher. Above all writing should be fun!

# Mathematics

There will be many natural opportunities for you to develop your child's understanding of numbers, shape and size.

- Make your child aware of numbers around us. For example, look at numbers on houses, birthday cards, signs, food packets, car registration plates, coins, clocks, kitchen scales.
- Encourage your child to count. For example, singing number rhymes, counting the number of lorries on a journey, counting how many apples in the bag.
- Show your child how to touch each object as they count.
- Cooking provides plentiful opportunities for using and developing mathematical understanding. For example, counting the number of eggs, counting spoonfuls of milk, weighing the correct amount of flour.
- Playing simple number games such as 'Snap', 'Snakes and Ladders', 'Dominoes' etc.
- Looking for shapes and patterns in the environment.