

Ways to help your children with their learning.

How to help your child with their reading?

Listening to your child read can take many forms:

- First and foremost, focus developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together - reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards - discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together - you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- All reading is valuable - it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides.

How to help your child with their writing?

- Practise and learn weekly spelling lists - make it fun!
- Encourage opportunities for writing, such as letters to family or friends, shopping lists, notes or reminders, stories or poems.
- Write together - be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling.
- Allow your child to use a computer for word processing, which will allow for editing and correcting of errors without lots of crossing out.
- Remember that good readers become good writers! Identify good writing features when reading (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation).
- Show your appreciation: praise and encourage, even for small successes!

How to help your child with their maths?

- Play times tables games.
- Play mental maths games including counting in different amounts, forwards and backwards.
- Encourage opportunities for telling the time.
- Encourage opportunities for counting coins and money e.g. finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for numbers on street signs, car registrations and anywhere else.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.

Useful links

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/interactive/literacy2.htm>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years>

These workbooks can be purchased from WHSmiths or Waterstones.

