



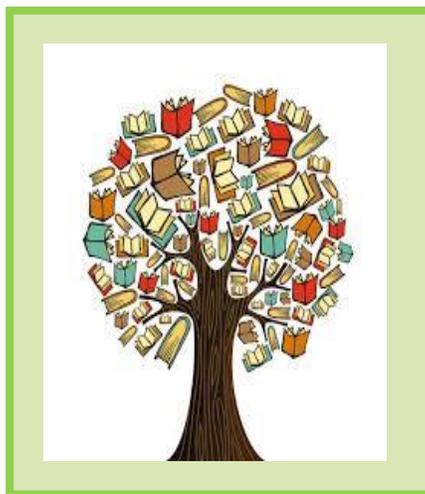
HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME WITH LITERACY

Reading

Research shows that children who read for pleasure do better at school than those who don't. Here are some practical tips for how you can help.

Top Tips:

- Let your child choose what to read.
- Ensure they have access to books, magazines and newspapers at home.
- Talk to your child about books you haven't enjoyed, as well as those you love.
- Make time to read together if you can; let them see you as a reader.
- Buy books as presents.
- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides and the Internet.



'Children who like reading very much are five times more likely to be above average readers.'

'22% of children report that no-one at home encourages them to read.'

Practical ideas:

- Try some skimming and scanning together. You could do this with a newspaper or website by asking your child to find some specific or general information out for you.
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues.
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary.
- Cut out newspaper articles about topics your child is studying and talk about the language in them together.
- Text book recommendations to your child's mobile phone.
- Read the texts your child is studying at school so you can share ideas about them.

By asking questions about their reading, you can support your child to:

- share their enjoyment of reading and writing.
- develop a better understanding about the characters or topics.
- develop a sense of empathy for others.
- develop their values, attitudes and beliefs about the world.
- broaden their experience and knowledge of the world.
- foster their imagination.
- consider the important points in what they are reading.

Parents who support their children's education make a real difference to how well their child does, and there are lots of quick things you can do to help.



"Better literacy leads to improved self-esteem, motivation and behaviour. It allows pupils to learn independently. It is empowering".

Writing

Top Tips:

Ensure your child has:

- good quality pens, pencils and paper.
- opportunities to see you as a writer, for example, writing emails or lists.

Read and talk about their writing:

- ask them to read their writing aloud to you.
- respond to the writing and praise what you like.
- ask them to explain why they wrote particular sections as they did.

Help them with planning their writing:

- ask them to talk through their ideas with you before they write.
- prompt them to include more detail, sequence things more clearly, vary the pace.

Help them to think about the person who will read their writing:

- do they want the reader to like the main character?
- should they include some clues about the ending?
- does the writing build up to a climax?

Practical ideas:

-Read your child's exercise books with them and discuss the writing they have done.

- Be an audience for their writing, feeding back on the impact their writing has had on you.

- Cut out newspaper articles about topics your child is studying for inspiration and ideas.

- Encourage your child to think of their writing as a draft which could be improved.

- Help your child proof-read their work for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar; do all of their sentences make sense?

Speaking & Listening

Top Tips:

Ensure your child has:

- plenty of opportunities for talk
- your full attention when they speak to you and that you respond to them
- opportunities to listen to sustained talk by others

Practical ideas:

Encourage them to speak at length, by:

- helping them take a long turn in a conversation
- prompting them to help them keep going
- asking them to tell you about some event in detail or explain to you how something works

Help them understand how speakers help listeners, by:

- using repetition and different voices for different characters when telling a story
- encouraging them to think about how to organise what they want to say
- changing their pace

Encourage them to notice and talk about:

- interesting/unusual words
- some of the different ways people speak.
- everyday topics, encouraging your child to be the 'expert' and use the technical terms they are learning at school. For example, your child could tell you about tomorrow's weather using words such as precipitation, humidity and isobars, or they could explain how a circuit works when you switch on the light.

If you would like any further advice about your child's literacy development, please contact either your child's tutor or English teacher at Writhlington.

SENCO:

Librarian:

Literacy lead teacher:

kmitchell@writhlington.org.uk

vking@writhlington.org.uk

mflagg@writhlington.org.uk