

*Helping  
your child  
at home*  
Reception  
Class



There are many activities that you and your child can share at home, which can help to support their learning in Reception. Please consider the activities suggested and remember above all else, talking and playing with your child is very important.



## Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible. Of course staff will always be on hand in Reception to help!

- Practise putting on their own coat.
- Using a spoon, knife, fork and cup at dinner time.
- Encourage them to help with dressing and undressing routines.

## Social Skills

- Being able to interact appropriately with other children and share resources is a key skill that will really help your child.
- Play games and model social language such as 'my turn please' or 'let's share.'
- Encourage and join in with pretend play e.g doctors, hairdressers, babies.
- Encourage your child to tidy away his/her toys and to complete one activity before starting something else.



## Communication & Language

Listening is an essential skill for talking and learning. Everywhere we go there are different noises around us. Sometimes children need a bit of quiet time to tune into talking rather than the other noises going on around them. Adults need to show children the way - when we listen to children, they learn what to do in order to be good listeners.



### Some listening activities:

- Listening Treasure Box - Collect lots of things that make a noise, such as: Crinkly paper, Noise making toys, Pots and pans, Musical instruments, Books with noise buttons, Explore! Listen and talk about them.
- Spot the mistake - Sing a simple rhyme or song, but make a mistake - can children spot the mistake? Incy wincy spider climbing up... a tree (should be spout) The wheels on the... train go round and round (should be bus) Twinkle twinkle little... hat (should be star)
- Go games - Build a tower of bricks. Your child waits for you to say "Go" before they can knock it down. Have a race - ready steady go... Push a car to each other - ready steady go... Dance around - ready steady go... Roll the ball - ready steady go...
- Where is that noise? - Get a toy or play music on a CD player or phone or mp3 player. Hide the noisy object somewhere in the room - can your child find it?
- Go on a listening walk where your child listens for the sounds around them in the park or town centre. Jot down the sounds they can hear and talk about them back at home to retell the journey.



Understanding is the key to talking and learning. Children need to understand what single words mean and when words are joined together in sentences, conversations and stories. This takes time and children go through phases where they ask lots of questions. This is good as they are trying to find out how things work and understand the world around them. Adults play an important role in answering the many questions children have and in checking out whether children understand.

Some understanding activities:

- Shopping - Set up a pretend shop. Have 4 or 5 things in your shop -ask your child to go and buy... The beans and the milk. The apple, the cheese and the yoghurt.



- Posty - Make a postbox out of an old cardboard box, with a hole cut in it. Your child can be a posty - have 4 or 5 toys to choose from. Ask them to collect different 'parcels' for posting. "Can you post the spot book?"



- Instruction Time - Children need to wait for you to say "go". When you do they can run around, but must stop when you say "stop" and clap your hands. Play in different ways by having children listen to an instruction, such as "Hop around and stop when I clap" or "Jump on the spot and stop when I bang on the drum."
- Play a game of Simon Says - Give instructions with one, then two parts.







To develop your child's vocabulary development you could play sorting games. For example when packing a suitcase as this is a great way to help word categorisation, which is important for vocabulary learning.

- Outdoor 'treasure hunts' - collecting objects found on walks in the park or beach help introduce new types of vocabulary such as describing words. Treasure can also be used to create feely bags where objects have to be described by the way they feel before revealing it.

## Reading

Children who are read to and enjoy books from an early age are more likely to become fluent and successful readers themselves in the future.

Having good sound awareness skills such as rhyming and identifying what sound a word begins with is a great foundation for reading.

- Sharing songs and stories which rhyme.
- Say the sounds that letters make.
- Encourage your child to re-tell their favourite stories in their own words.
- Use your local library.
- Spot words that your child knows in books.

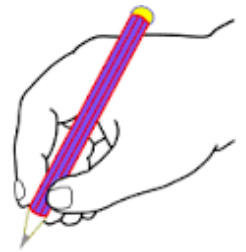


## Phonics

- Play snap or bingo. Write letters on pieces of papers or cards. Make two for each letter. Use them to play snap. You could create a bingo card with 8 boxes - each 1 containing a letter. Put the cards into a pile, face down and take it in turns to be the bingo caller.
- Play phonics fishing! Use homemade letter cards, add a paperclip to each, tie a magnet to some string and a stick and ask your child to 'fish' for a particular sound.
- Play 'I spy' games (for example, 'I spy something beginning with a...', using the letter sound) when you are out and about.

## Writing

A good foundation for being able to write is to develop fine motor skills. Good fine motor skills enable a child to hold a pencil firmly as they are writing.



- Threading with beads, buttons or making necklaces out of dried pasta.
- Weaving wool around a cardboard template or strips of card through each other.
- Provide them with different tools for mark making
- Draw and copy patterns - using the writing motions of up and down strokes or rounds and diagonals.
- Write on a big scale - outdoors with a paintbrush and water or chalk.
- Make shopping lists together.
- Celebrate all their attempts at mark making.

## Mathematics

- Practise counting verbally to 20 and back again.
- One to one counting can be done incidentally throughout the day e.g. counting steps and climbing the stairs.
- Find the same amount of different items e.g. 3 spoons, 3 hats or 3 socks.
- Sing counting songs.
- Number hunt - look for numerals on doors, buses, cars, signs at home, at the shops or on TV.
- Play 'I spy' with numbers.
- Play games using dice. How many dots does the dice show? Can they tell you without counting? Count each dot to check. What would be 1 more/less than the number?
- Shape hunt - see how many circles, squares, rectangles and triangles your child can find. Look for patterns too.
- Talk about the shape and size of objects, e.g. big car, little car, round ball, square table. Ask your child questions such as 'pass me the biggest box' or 'which is the smallest shoe'.
- Explore a range of containers - how many socks can you fit in a box? Which container holds the most, or the least, sand/water/beads etc...

