

Useful Early Years Resources

We hope you find the information in this booklet helpful in learning how to support you child at home. Here are some suggested activities along with educational apps and activities to help you. Enjoy!



Reading

Reading a story to your child is one of the best ways to promote that love of books. Stories teach children new vocabulary, encourage them to use their imagination and build their knowledge of settings, characters and story structures. Why not join your local library and take your child to get a selection of books to read at home. Remember reading is not just books, reading is everywhere. Encourage your child to read signs, labels, price tags, magazines, cereal boxes and number plates. We hope you find the questions below useful to ask your child when reading.



Child Aged 22 - 36 months

- What can you see?
- Can you tell me the story?
- What part did you like?
- Can you spot any sounds?
- Can you remember what word comes next?



Child Aged 30-50 months

- Can you think of anything else that begins with that sound?
- Can you notice any words that rhyme?
- What words come next? Can you join in?
- Are we at the beginning or the end of the story?
- What do you think might happen next? How might the story end?
- What does the front cover tell us?
- Where do you think the story is set?
- What just happened in the story?
- Are there any words that you recognise?

Child Aged 40-60 months

- Can you think of any other words that rhyme with this one?
- What sound does this word begin with?
- What does this word say? Can you blend the sounds together to read it?
- What sound does this letter make?
- What is the name of this letter?
- Can you find (a word) in the text?
- Can you read the next sentence? (Make sure this is short and made up of words that can easily be sounded out e.g. 'hat' 'dog').
- Is this a fiction or non-fiction book? How do you know?

End of year R

- Can you read the next sentence?
- What do you think might happen?
- Can you blend the sounds in that word? What does the word say?
- Do you recognize this word?
- What happened in the story?
- What is your favourite part of the story? Why?
- Is this story like any other books that you have read?
- Can you retell this part of the story to your friend?
- Find a page in this book that you didn't like

Fine Motor Skills - Pre-Writing Activities

Before even making marks on paper, children need to develop the strength in their fingers and their fine motor control. Picking up small objects and putting them into small holes actually requires a lot of co-ordination and is great practice. These exercises strengthen the muscles in hands, wrists, arms and shoulders. See below for ideas of how to develop your child's fine motor skills.

Pennies in a Jar



Playdough

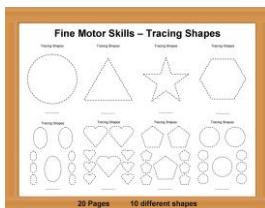


Using Tweezers

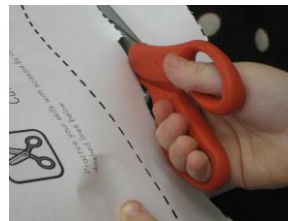
Threading beads



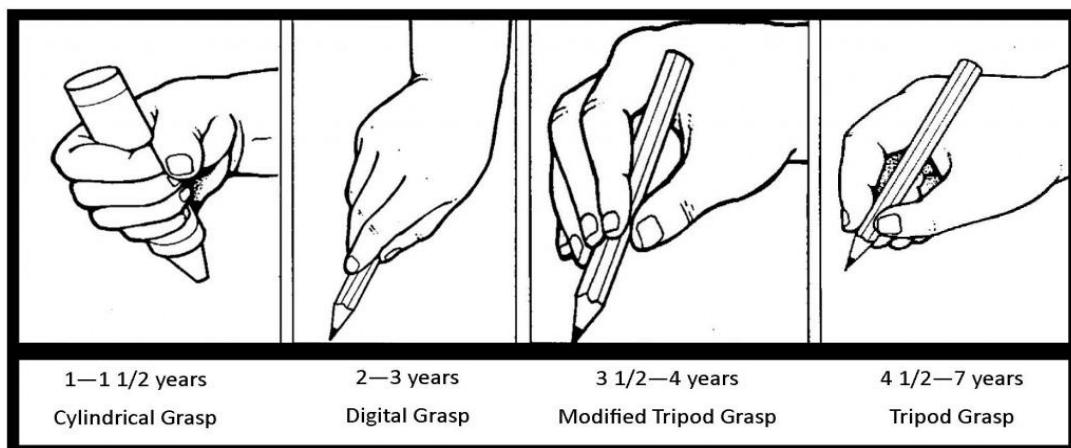
Tracing Lines



Scissor skills



Correct pencil grip



Writing for Kids



At home you can support your child by getting them to write:

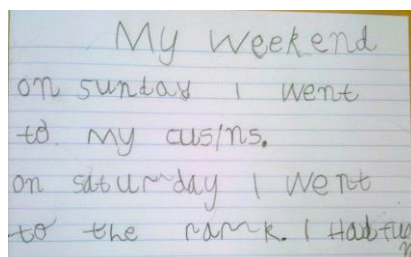
- birthday cards
- shopping lists
- make a poster for their bedroom or signs to go up around the house
- secret messages
- a diary
- stories
- books

Children:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds
- learn to write words by saying the sounds and graphemes
- learn to build sentences orally using adventurous vocabulary
- start with simple sentences and develop towards more complex ones by composing a range of texts using discussion prompts

Literacy Websites

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk - click on 'free' and select phase 2 games, Buried Treasure and Obb and Bob are fantastic games the children have enjoyed playing
- www.ictgames.com/phonemePopLS_v2.html - helps your child to learn their letter sounds
- <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html#3> - Alphabet, formation and cvc section
- www.readingchest.co.uk - online books
- www.twinkl.co
- www.cbeebies.co.uk
- www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/



Math's

Maths is happening all around us, all the time, which helps us to make it real and make it fun!

Make the most of everyday opportunities

- What numbers can you see?
- What shapes can you see?
- Bake - weigh ingredients, compare amounts
- Counting by rote, forwards and backwards to 20, in 2's, 5's, 10's
- Play shops using real coins
- Teddy bear tea party - sharing a given number of raisins, setting the table
- Board games such as Snakes and Ladders, Ludo
- Play hide the teddy - get the children to give you clues as to where it is
- Snap - choose 2 cards and ask your child to make a given number
- Use magnetic numbers to write sums for children to solve on the fridge
- Make patterns out of everyday objects
- Pair up the socks by pattern and count in 2's



Useful Math's Websites

- www.primaryresources.co.uk/online/longshape3d.html - find 3d shapes
- www.mathcats.com/explore/polygons.html - build a picture using 2d shapes
- www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/teddy-numbers - counting out objects up to 15
- resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/ngfl/ngfl-flash/numbers_eng/numbers_e.html - number formation
- www.bigeyedowl.co.uk/maths/index.htm - lots of ideas for games you can play at home to help develop maths with your child
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs
- www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html
- www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths - Created by a school in Kent and contains hundreds of interactive math's games
- www.early-years.org/parents/docs/maths-through-play.pdf
- nrich.maths.org/early-years
- www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting



Useful APPS for EYFS Children



- Hairy Letters
- Hairy Phonics 1, 2, 3
- Forest Phonics
- Nosy Crow Books
- My Story
- Meet the Alphablocks
- Daisy The Dinosaur
- The Human Body
- ColAR Mix
- UP +-
- Number Jacks- addition facts
- RM Easimaths
- Maths, age 3-4
- Maths, age 4-6
- Popmath
- Little Digits
- Bugs and Numbers
- Bee-Bot
- Toy Story Read Along

Useful Websites for EYFS Parents

- www.booktrust.org.uk/resources - Book Trust gets children and families reading with resources to support reading of all ages to develop the skills that will improve opportunities in life.
- www.bookstart.org.uk/ Join the Book Bear Club
<http://www.bookstart.org.uk/bookstart-bear-club/>
- www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/parents- A range of advice and information ensure a balanced diet in early years.
- www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/early-years/ - Small Talk -for parents of children aged 0-5 to show where children are likely to be with their communication at a certain age. Top Tips Leaflet - 10 Top Tips to help parents or professionals develop children and young people's communication skills. Through the eyes of a child - Four films full of useful advice on how parents can encourage their child to talk and interact with them. Misunderstood - Information for those who want to find out more about supporting children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. Listen up - Resources to encourage listening, understanding, interaction and play. Summer Talk - Pack with games and activities that support families to encourage children's communication skills when they are out and about this Summer.

We hope you have found this leaflet useful.

The Early Years Team