

Literacy

These are our 'Top Tips' to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...

- ★ Find a quiet place. Turn off the television or radio so there are no distractions. As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know. Give your child time to respond to your comments.
- ★ Sing nursery rhymes and other songs with your child, this helps them learn new vocabulary and how to articulate words, modulate their voices, and enunciate clearly. Listen to rhymes and stories on CDs.
- ★ Resist putting any pressure on your child to name the pictures, but if your child copies your words, praise them and say the words again to consolidate them.
- ★ Let other grown-ups - grandparents, carers and older brothers and sisters join in too.
- ★ Read stories that children already know, pausing at intervals to encourage them to 'read' the next word. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear. It's good to share favourite books again and again.
- ★ Tell, as well as read stories, interacting with young babies and children.
- ★ Visit the library together. Children of any age can take out a book, they don't need to be able to read. Borrow books from the Nursery library too!
- ★ Look together at the writing in the environment around you: on street signs, food packaging, television programmes, buses, menus, forms and prescriptions. Help your child to recognise familiar letters and symbols, including the letters that make up his or her own name.
- ★ Provide pencils and scrap paper as soon as your child begins to want to make marks, so that he/she can do drawings and 'pretend' writing.
- ★ When your child can control a pencil and recognises her or his own name in writing, encourage them to write the name. They might try at first to copy or write over what an adult has written. Don't worry if she doesn't get it right first time. Just congratulate them on their progress and let them try again when they are ready.
- ★ Talk to your child about the letters that represent the sounds they hear at the beginning of their name and other familiar words.
- ★ Demonstrate writing so that children can see spelling in action. Make books together using photographs as illustrations, create shopping lists before visiting the shops.

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises 7 different areas of learning. Literacy is one of the 4 Specific Areas.

Literacy development involves providing opportunities for young children to link sounds and letters to begin to read and write. Children should be given access to a wide range of reading materials, stories, books and rhymes, fact and fiction to ignite their interest.

The Early Learning Goals:

(This is the level of attainment which children should be expected to attain at the end of the Reception Year at School.)

Reading - Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately they also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking to others about what they have read.

Writing - Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways that match their spoken sounds. They also write some common irregular common words. They write simple sentences that can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

Be a role model. Children learn by watching what parents do so show your child you enjoy and value reading and writing by taking part yourself. Even simple things like writing a shopping list can have a big influence

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: www.foundationyears.org.uk.

Other useful websites:
www.literacytrust.org.uk
www.rif.org.uk

Yellow Dot is a small Group of Children's Nurseries based in Hampshire. Its hard working team have achieved amazing results with all the settings acknowledged by Ofsted to have Outstanding qualities! Thank you for choosing Yellow Dot to care for your child.

