



Useful Resources:

Book Recommendations for your children:

CLPE Core Books: <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks> (register with your email to use).

Booktrust's 100 Best Books for children 0-14: <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/100-best-books/>

Library Information:

<http://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Library-joining-form-2017.pdf>

Support for phonics:

Video showing how to make the speech sounds in English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s

The Alphablocks Guide to Phonics—CBeebies Grown Ups: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>

Support for poetry and rhyme:

CLPE poetryline poet pages: <https://www.clpe.org.uk/poetryline/poets>

Supporting your Children with Reading and Writing: A Parent's Guide

Sharing songs, rhymes and poetry:

- Nursery rhymes and simple songs are often children's first experience of story structures, introducing characters and simple plots that they can recall readily, so share these with young children on a daily basis. Include family favourites as well as classics.
- Poetry is a wonderful medium for engaging children in reading and writing, however it can often be overlooked in favour of more traditional stories or non-fiction in classrooms, bookshops and in the home. Encourage children to listen to rhymes and poems read aloud and re-read, allow them to savour and try out parts of the language before joining in and performing themselves as the language becomes more familiar.
- Encourage children to listen out for different techniques such as rhyme, alliteration (when words start with the same sound) and repetition. Clap along with beats and rhythms and encourage children to move rhythmically to music, feeling the rhythm at its core.
- Talk to children about what they like about poems and rhymes and how they make them feel. Encourage them to draw or perform in response to rhymes and poems or to have a go at writing their own.



Phonics and Spelling:

- Encourage children to take an interest in letters and words around them. This will start with the letters in their name, important words to them like mum, dad, teddy and will expand to other words linked to children's personal interests and new words they encounter in reading, conversation and through other activities such as visits to places of interest and watching television.
- Encourage the children to use the sounds letters make to help them read unfamiliar words. This will start with breaking down each word into its individual sounds such as c/a/t or breaking words into manageable chunks, like syllables as children get older, such as in/di/ges/tion.
- Discuss words with children when they are reading or writing where the sounds or spelling patterns are not as they would expect. Ask them what is different about the sounds or spelling patterns.
- Look at those words that we need to use a lot in reading and writing, these are called 'high frequency words'. Encourage your child to practice reading and spelling these words often as lots of them don't follow basic sound patterns.
- Talk with your children about words that sound the same but are spelt differently (homophones) like *their*, *there* and *they're* or *too*, *two* and *to* and words that are spelt the same but have different meanings (homographs) like *cross* (the symbol) and *cross* (the emotion).



Supporting your child 's reading development:

- Make sure your home is a reading home - have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well. Ensure that your children see you reading. It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- Take time to look together at the words and pictures in a story. Picturebooks are important reading for children at all ages and stages of reading and looking for meaning in the illustration is just as important as in the text. Take time to pore over pictures and talk about what you can see and what this adds to the story played out in the words.
- Bring reading to life by using your voice in different ways. Create voices for characters, pause for suspense, sing along with rhyming books, use animal sounds like woof, growl and hoot – this will really help to bring the story to life. Don't be shy, relax and enjoy – if you are having fun so will your child. If you have more than one child, make this a family time to share and enjoy songs, rhymes, poems and stories.
- Encourage children to join in - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, the TV listings to plan what to watch, the newspaper to catch up on events or a shopping list around the supermarket. Encourage children to carry a book at all times so they can read on journeys or in spare moments – you can do this, too!
- Visit the local library together on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books. Choose a range of books that give your child a broad experience of reading, picture books, non-fiction, poetry, short stories and longer novels are an important part of children's reading experience at all ages.
- As children get older, reading to them and hearing them read to you is still a vital part of their reading experience. Keep reading aloud to your child, even when they can read by themselves. You could also try reading the same book together as children get older. There are lots of books that both adults and young people can enjoy, such as the *Harry Potter* series. Make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning.
- Talk about what you've read to your child, what you've heard them read or read together. Discuss the characters, settings and storylines, talk about favourite moments or parts of the text they didn't enjoy. Encourage them to make links with other things they have read or seen, or to their own personal experiences. Can they remember a time they have felt like the character? Been somewhere like the place where the story was set?
- Go to libraries, festivals or bookshops when authors are visiting. Children and teenagers love meeting their favourite authors. Lots of local bookshops have a visiting author programme and there are some wonderful local festivals that host author events.
- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again, this is important and lets them commit the story to memory, revisit favourite parts and enjoy the reading as they are more confident with the story.
- Encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other. This will encourage them to talk and think about the books they are reading.
- Give books or book tokens as presents, and encourage others to do so.

Encouraging writing at home:

- Drawing, painting, playing with playdough and making marks with and in different materials are all important steps in to writing, but also help strengthen children's imagination as they develop as writers. Allow lots of opportunities for these activities at home.
- Encourage children to write as much as possible to record their thoughts, feelings and ideas as part of daily activities. This could be as simple as making a shopping list, keeping a diary of important things that have or are happening or you may want to provide your child with a special notebook that they can keep as their own writing journal. They may use it to write stories, notes, ideas, poems or anything they want to.
- Have paper, pens and notebooks in the house and encourage children to use these to write for different purposes. When you go on holiday or out for a day trip, encourage your child to send a postcard to someone they want to share the experience with.
- Don't make writing a pressurised activity. It should be a way of relaxing, creating and children expressing, communicating and sharing ideas.
- Get into the habit of using writing to communicate. Leave notes for your child, as simple as letting them know what's for dinner and encourage them to do the same. Post-it notes are great for sticking around the house.
- Talk regularly about subjects of interest to your child, encourage them to explore their interests, read more information about them and write notes.
- When you are watching television together, talk about what you are watching. Discuss characters and storylines in cartoon or talk about documentaries together.
- Talk about new words your children have heard in conversations, in reading or on TV. Encourage your children to ask when they don't understand a word and talk together about what words might mean. Have a dictionary in the house to look up any words your children aren't sure of as they get older.
- Make your own books together and write your own diaries, fact books or stories. Simple instructions for this can be found at: <https://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/creative-approaches/bookmaking>

