

Games to play with your Reception child

Robotic talking - Words are made up from sounds and children need to be able to hear these sounds individually. Sometimes when you are playing you can say words as if you were a robot (saying the sounds separately) and see if your child can work out what you are saying. Stick to short simple words that only have a few sounds in them. Make sure you are saying the letter sounds (p-i-g) not the letter names (pee-eye-gee). e.g.

Pass that p-i-g to me.

Sit d-ow-n.

Point to your t-ee-Th.D.

Hop like a f-r-o-g.

As your child becomes familiar with this robot talking, see if they can say words in robot talk themselves?

I spy - Say the rhyme 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with ...' allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess what you have chosen, for example, 'something beginning with t' could be a tree, toy, tent or train.

Point out print everywhere - Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find familiar words on each outing such as 'McDonald's or 'Coca-Cola'.

Playing with words - Encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

Looking for letters - Ask your child to look for letters whilst you are out and about. Can they find letters from their own name, letters they have learnt in school or letters that specific words begin with?

Make up stories on the go - Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.



Helping Your Child at Home

A guide to support Early Reading and Phonics



Class 1

Mrs Gumley and Mrs Fulton

Getting Started

Books with pictures

- To start with your child will have brought home a book with pictures. Please spend time looking first at the front cover and asking them questions e.g. What can you see? What do you think this book is about? What do you think will happen to ...?

- Encourage your child to turn the pages correctly and look at the pictures from left to right so they understand how a book works.

- Talk about the pictures with your child using questions like: What do you think will happen next? Did you guess ...? Why do they look happy? Would you like it if ...? Why do you think they did that?

- Help your child to increase their vocabulary by naming unfamiliar objects in the picture, "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

Books with words - Your child will soon begin to bring home books with words which they can sound out using some of the phonics they have learned in class. We have also sent home an envelope with the letter sounds for your child to practise, this will support their reading and writing. Please spend time looking at the cover and talking about what the story might be about. Use questions to help your child understand what they are reading e.g. What do you think will happen next? Why do they look ...? Why do you think they did that? Let your child use their phonics to sound out each letter in turn and then blend to make the word.

Sharing books - We teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc). You don't have to read all (or any) of the words each time. Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and most importantly have fun!

General tips to support reading

Once is never enough! - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?" (You could use the 'questions to get more from your child's reading book' for some varied ideas, these appear in the back of the Kipper stories).

Take control of the television - It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.

Be patient - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Pick books that are at the right level - Help your child pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences. We will send home books with your child at the correct level.

I read to you, you read to me - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.

One more time with feeling - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often children are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.