

Make reading fun

Reading at home needs to be fun and easy – something you both look forward to, a time for laughter and talk- find a comfortable, quiet place away from the TV for the 2 of you to cosy up and read for 10-15 minutes



- if you or your child start to feel stressed, take a break and read the rest of the story aloud yourself – keep it fun
 - make some puppets – old socks, cardboard tubes, cut-outs on sticks – that you and your child can use to act out the story you have read. Or dress up and make it into a play
 - play card games (you can make the cards yourself)
 - read songs, poems and rhymes - sing them together, too.
- Here's a tip - when they are reading, your child will still be coming across words they don't know. When this happens, you could remind them to think about what they already know to do when they get stuck. If that doesn't help you might ask "What word would make sense that starts like that?" or "What do you know about that word that might help?" If they still can't work it out – tell them and praise their efforts.

Take your child to the library- help them choose books to share, find other books by the same author or on the same topic (or look for more information on the web – you might have to be the reader for this one).

Here's a tip - help your child to link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.

Talk about reading

- Talk about the story and the pictures, other stories you have read, and experiences you have both had that are like those in the story
- Sometimes you can be the listener, sometimes the reader and sometimes you can take turns. They might like to read to the cat, the dog, their teddy or a big/little brother/sister
- All children like to be read to, so don't stop reading to them – no matter how old they are, ask them questions about what is happening and why
- Encourage your child to read all sorts of things – the TV guide in the newspaper, street signs, food labels. Simple recipes are great – you get to eat what you've read about, too.

Talk with your child all the time – and give them time to talk with you.

Make writing fun

- encourage your child to write – on paper or on the computer. It is OK for you to help and share the writing. Give lots of praise
 - enjoy the message and don't make your child anxious about spelling or neatness
 - make a photo book and get your child to write captions
 - scrapbooks are fun, too. Old magazine or newspaper pictures about a favourite subject, dogs, your family, motorbikes or the latest toy craze, pasted on to blank pages – with room for captions or stories, too
 - play with words. Finding and discussing interesting new words can help increase the words your child uses when they write. Look up words in the dictionary or on the Internet
- Help them create a scrapbook with pictures. Encourage them to write stories under the pictures and talk to you about them.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw - on paper or on the computer. Or get them to tell you the story and you write it under the picture.
- Here's a tip - talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand what your child's picture or story is about, ask them to tell you about it.



Give them reasons to write

Help your child to: write lists – 'Things I need from the shop', 'Games to play when I am bored', 'Things I want to do in the holidays'. The last one can be cut up and go into a box or bag for a lucky dip when the holidays finally arrive

write out recipes or instructions for other people to follow (especially fun if the instructions are for an adult)

keep a diary, especially if you are doing something different and exciting. Your child can draw the pictures or stick in photos. Their diary could be a webpage on the computer

write letters, cards, notes and emails to friends and family and the Tooth Fairy – you might write replies sometimes, too

cut out letters from old magazines and newspapers to make messages write secret messages for others to find in their lunch box or under their pillow.

Display their work. Put it on the fridge. Be proud of it. Share it with others.

Talk about their writing; Make up a different ending for a favourite story together and get them to write it down.

Talk together and have fun with numbers, shapes and patterns. Help your child to: find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood; eg find 7, 17 and 27 on letterboxes



- count forwards and backwards starting with different numbers (eg 58, 60, 61, 62, then back again)
- make patterns when counting forwards and backwards (eg "5, 10, 15, 20 then 20, 15, 10, 5 and 30, 40, 50, 60 or 12, 14, 16, 18, ...")
- do addition and subtraction problems by counting forwards or backwards in their heads (eg $8 + 4$, $16 - 3$)

Help them learn their 'ten and...' facts (eg $10 + 4$, $10 + 7$) double and halve numbers to 20 (eg $7 + 7$ is 14, half of 14 is 7).

Use easy, everyday activities

Involve your child in: sorting (washing, odd socks, toys, cans) while tidying up

- telling you what their favourite things are – food, sport, colour reading - notice and talk about numbers.
- ask questions about the pictures like "how many birds are there?"
- a shape and number search together wherever you are, like numbers of shoes, shapes of doors and windows.

Here's a tip - mathematics is an important part of everyday life and there are lots of ways you can make it fun for your child.

Get together with your child and: use mathematics words during play (treasure hunts, obstacle courses, building huts) - "under", "over", "between", "around", "behind", "up", "down", "heavy", "light", "round", "your turn next", "before", "after", "left" and "right", "square", "triangle" – you can use your first language

play with big cardboard boxes using words like "inside", "outside"

play games and do puzzles; eg jigsaws, "I spy something that is longer, bigger, smaller than..."

do water play using different shaped containers and measuring cups

bake – talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients and how many pieces you need to feed everyone

play with a pack of cards - make up addition and subtraction problems using numbers to 20

look at a calendar – "how many days/weeks until an event?", "how many days in the month?", "how many weekends?".



Supporting Your Child's Learning
At Home

Year Two

Learning for life anchored in Christ