

### Read and talk together

- Get your child to tell you about what they are reading. Who is their favourite character and why? Is there anyone like that in your family? What do they think is going to happen? Why are characters behaving in a certain way? How do we know...?



- Help your child with any words they don't understand – look them up together in the dictionary if you need to

- Read recipes, instructions, manuals, maps, diagrams, signs and emails.

It will help your child to understand that words can be organised in different ways on a page, depending on what it's for

- Read junk mail – your child could compare costs, make their own 'advertisements' by cutting up junk mail or come up with clever sentences for a product they like.

- Have a pile of reading materials available – library books (non-fiction and fiction), kids' cookery books, simple timetables, newspapers and magazines, catalogues and any other reading that supports your child's current interest

- Encourage your child to retell favourite stories or parts of stories in their own words.

### Read with others

- If your child has chosen something to read that is too hard at the moment, take turns and read it together

- Reading to younger brothers or sisters, or other family will give your child an opportunity to practise reading out loud

- Encourage other family members to read to and with your child

Here's some tips -Keep the magic of listening to a good story alive by reading either made up, retold or read-aloud stories to your child – with lots of excitement through the use of your voice! *When they are reading, the most common difficulty your child is likely to have is working out the meaning of new words, phrases and expressions. To do this your child will use their knowledge of words and word patterns (eg prefixes, suffixes and root words) to help build meaning. You may need to remind your child to read back and forward for clues to help their understanding of what they are reading. Talk with your child about the meaning.*

**Make it real-** Reading makes more sense if your child can relate it to their own life. Help them to make connections between what they are reading and their own lives and experiences. For example, "that's a funny story about a dog – what does your dog do that makes you laugh?", "show your child that reading is fun and important to you by letting them see you reading magazines, books, newspapers etc

### Writing for fun

- Talk about interesting words with your child, especially ones that are fun to say, like "hippopotamus". Short and simple games could involve finding how many little words can be found using the letters in the word 'elephant'



- Work together on the small word games found in the children's section (or word section) of the newspaper

- Make up a story or think of traditional tale and act it out with costumes and music, write down the names of the characters

- Make up a play with your child. You could help your child to write the play down. Use puppets they design and make themselves to give a performance to the family

Here's a tip - keep writing fun and use any excuse to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.

### Writing for a reason

- Get your child to help write the shopping list, invitation lists for family events, menus for special dinners, thank-you cards when someone does something nice

- Postcards are a good size for a sentence or two and they are cheap to post, too. Have a special place to keep your child's writing at home (notice board, fridge, folder). You might frame a piece of writing and hang it up, too.

Here's a tip - be a great role model. Show your child that you write for all sorts of reasons. Let them see you enjoying writing. Write to them sometimes, too. You can use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.

### Supporting your child's writing

- Talk to your child about what you are writing – let them see you making lists, writing emails, filling in forms

- Keep envelopes, banking slips, forms you don't need so that your child can do their own 'grown up' writing

- Display your child's writing where others can admire and read it

- Play with words. Find and discuss interesting new words – this can help increase the words your child uses when they write – look words up in the dictionary or on the Internet

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Talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns

Help your child to:



find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood—phone numbers,

clocks, letterboxes, road signs, signs showing distance

name the number that is 10 more or 10 less than before or after a number up to 100

make patterns when counting in groups (skip counting) forwards and backwards, starting with different numbers (eg 13, 23, 33, 43..., ...43, 33, 23, 13)

find out the ages of family members and draw place value images

do addition and subtraction problems in their heads using facts to 20 eg  $10 + 4$ ,  $15 - 7$

use groups of 10 that add to 100 eg  $50 + 50$ ,  $30 + 70$ .

**Use easy, everyday activities**

Involve your child in: telling the time – o'clock,  $\frac{1}{2}$  past,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to, digital time

making lunch or a meal for a party – make sandwiches in different shapes. Can they cut their sandwich in half? Can they cut the other sandwich in half a different way?

helping at the supermarket – choose items to weigh – how many apples/bananas weigh a kilo? Look for the best buy between different makes of the same items (eg blocks of cheese) – check on the amount of sugar or salt per serving

deciding how much money you will need to put into the parking meter and what time you will need to be back before the meter expires

thinking about how many telephone numbers they can remember – talk about what they do to help them remember the series of numbers

**Get together with your child and:** play card and board games that use guessing and checking

- look at junk mail/ catalogs— which is the best value? Ask your child what they would buy if they had £10/£100/£20 to spend
- do complicated jigsaw puzzles
- cook or bake – use measuring cups, spoons ( $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon) and scales
- play mathematics "I Spy" – something that is  $\frac{1}{2}$  a km away, something that has 5 parts hide something from each other and draw a map or hide several clues – can you follow the map or the clues and find it?



Supporting Your Child's Learning  
At Home

Lower Key Stage Two

# Learning for life anchored in Christ