

Helping your child at home

Reading

- Aim to listen to your child read every day for 10 minutes. You can refer to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc> to help you pronounce the sounds correctly.
- Read to child every day (you can read in your first language). This is a great opportunity for children to access books they cannot read for themselves.
- Talk about what you have read together. Share ideas about how the characters may be feeling and make predictions about what might happen next.
- Be a role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading and talk about what you are enjoying.

Writing

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter.
- Let your child see you writing, you can use your first language.
- Encourage them to write shopping lists or make birthday cards
- Water and a paintbrush on a dry path and a stick on sand are fun ways to write letters and words.
- Write to each other. Write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like their lunch box. Ask them to write a reply.
- Help them email, text or write to family or friends.
- Work with them to put labels on special things – like the door to their room or their toy box.
- Display their work. Put it on the fridge. Be proud of it. Share it with others.

- Talk about the letters in your child's name and where the name comes from.
- 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.
- Have felt pens, pencils, crayons and paper available
- Put magnetic letters on the fridge and ask what words they can make with the letters.

Mathematics

- Find numbers around your home and neighbourhood eg. clocks, letterboxes, speed signs
- Count forwards and backwards (clocks, fingers and toes, letterboxes, action rhymes, signs)
- Make patterns when counting "clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4, clap 5"
- Practise calculations using objects such as stones or marbles eg $2 + 3$, $4 + 1$, $5 + 4$
- Preparing and sharing out food "two for me and two for you". Ask, "How many altogether?"
- Talk about time "lunchtime", "storytime", "bedtime" and try to link it to O'Clock and half past.
- Use words in everyday play like "under", "over", "between", "around", "behind", "up", "down", "heavy", "light", "round", "circle", "yesterday", "tomorrow".
- Ask questions like "How many apples do we need for lunches? What do you think the weather is going to be like today/tomorrow? What are we going to do next?"
- Play with water using different shaped containers and measuring cups in the sink or bath.
- When cooking, talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients using words like "how many?" "how much?" "more". Count how many teaspoons of baking soda are needed, help them to measure some of the ingredients.

Being positive about all areas of learning is really important for your child, even if you found a particular area tricky when you were at school.