

Home Learning

If your child is struggling with the activities set out in the timetable, one thing that will have the greatest impact is listening to your child read and also reading to your child. Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform well at school, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

When reading with your child, there are a few things to consider to make it more enjoyable:

- Firstly, choose a time and place which is calm and where there are few distractions. This may include mobile phones away and the television off.
- If starting a new book (particularly for younger children), flick through the pages before you start reading and pick out any words that may be tricky and tell your child that word and discuss its meaning. You can give your child the names of any characters. Try not to read the whole story. Instead, with your child, use the pictures to predict what is happening. You may not want to show them the last few pages.
- Once you have warmed up the book, go back to the beginning and listen to your child read. However, be mindful not to try and keep correcting your child as this will stop their flow and they then will not understand what they have read if they keep stopping. If they are making a lot of mistakes, the book is too challenging and this will knock their confidence. As they are reading ignore their few mistakes and go back to that when they have finished reading and you can talk about any mistakes and correct them.
- And always remember to give lots of praise at the end. This could be for having a go at a really challenging word, using great expression, recognising a word that they have previously found hard. Although it is really tempting, try not to give praise whilst they are reading; again this will stop their flow.

After you have read with your child, there are lots of quick activities (which need very little resources) that you can do with them to support their learning further.

Cut Up Sentence

1. When your child has read the book, get them to turn to their favourite page. Cover up the writing and then let them look at the picture. They are to create their own sentence to match the picture.
2. You (the adult) write the sentence out on a thin strip of paper and get your child to practice saying the sentence (you can do this using silly voices).
3. When your child is confident, cut the sentence up, including the full stop, and muddle the words up and turn them over.

4. Ask for child to put it back together and get your child to read the sentence. When they have done this, cover the sentence up and get your child to write it, trying to spell the words correctly.

Spellings and Tricky Words – these can be taken from word lists set out in your home planners. They can also be used when your child comes across a word in their reading book that they have found challenging. As your child is reading, make a note of a couple of words that they have struggled with and have a go at one of the activities below. If your child is finding a large number words difficult to read, the book may be too hard for them.

- With spelling flashcards (easily made by writing on cut up squares of paper) make the game pairs. Create a double set of the words your child is finding tricky. Pick up two cards at a time until they find a pair. Can they verbally spell it out to you?
- Flip, Read, Letters and Write: Your child can learn their spellings in 4 quick steps. Have the child flip over a card, read it, spell out the letters and then write it down.
- Trace, Copy, Recall: Fold a piece of paper into three columns and label them trace, copy and recall. Write the word in the first column and have your child trace it. Next, get them to copy the word in the next column by looking back at the letters. Finally, get them to fold and hide the first two columns and practise writing the word in the final column.
- Pocket Cards: Make small cards to keep in your pocket or bag and when you are making breakfast or sitting in the park ask the children to spell the words to you.
- Spelling Word Race: Create two teams with a player from each team taking the 'pen' at a time. Someone calls out the word and the two players race to write the word first.
- Spelling Puzzle: Make a home-made puzzle by writing the words in large on a piece of card.
- Get your child to cut it up and then can they piece it back together again?
- Stairs: Write the words as if they are stairs, adding one letter each time:
 - S, Sp, Spe, Spel, Spell
- Tic-Tac-Toe: This game is a favourite of the children's and is often best known as Os and Xs. Using the spelling words, your child needs to make get three in a row of the words spelt correctly. They can compete with you or a brother or sister.
- With a computer or tablet, type it out. Open up a document to type on. Call out the word for the child to spell. They can then play around with the word; increase the font size, change the colour etc. You could also use a paint app to practice writing the word out and the writing it into a sentence.
- Voice record: Using a recording device (this can even be your mobile phone) and have your child spell out the word and get them to listen back

- Practice reading the word, then write on a piece of paper, cover then write again. Do this a couple of times.
- Look, cover, write, check.
- Rainbow writing and write the word in different colours.
- Make up a rhyme to help remember the spelling. WAS – White As Snow.
- Write letters on different bits of paper and get child to re-arrange to form the word.
- Complete a treasure hunt and find things around the house/garden with the phonic sound and write them down.
- You can also play I Spy and find things that begin with the phonic sound.

Handwriting

Here are some examples of practicing handwriting with a sensory approach:

- Write in shaving foam
- Place string over letters.
- Write with wet chalk on a driveway / path
- Trace letters with a cotton-stab dipped in paint.
- Use cooked spaghetti noodles to form letters.
- Trace highlighted letters.
- Trace letters with a cotton ball dipped in paint.
- More examples and tasks can be found:
[**https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-handwriting/handwriting-year-3-age-7-8/**](https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-handwriting/handwriting-year-3-age-7-8/)
- You can also use the provided handwriting booklets to help practice this.