

Home Learning Advice - General

27th March 2020



Dear Parents

This information is designed to help you support your child while they are at home due to Covid-19.

The aim is to give hints and tips that will help your child to continue to learn and so you both find it fun!

Where has this advice come from? Your child uses a programme called Success for All (SfA) at school to learn to read and write. This advice sheet has been written by the SfA team to provide you with some simple, practical ideas for supporting your child while they are at home due to the Covid-19 outbreak. We hope you will find it useful.

Key advice to help make learning fun!

- Choose a time that suits you and your children. If they prefer to read first thing in the morning or before bed, then allow them to do so.
- Try to have a routine. Children will need to understand that although they are at home, they still need to do schoolwork. Children enjoy routine and having a timetable for the day will help both you and them to make sure that they continue to learn.
- Encourage children and praise them for working. It is important to remember what makes **you** keen to work: it is when you feel you are valued. Children will enjoy working if you tell them how much you value their hard work.
- If your child doesn't want to work explain why it is important for their future and try to make sure that the activities are enjoyable. Perhaps allow a short treat afterwards.

How to help children to work at home:

1. Choose a time that suits everybody.
2. Try to have a routine.
3. Encourage and praise children.
4. Make it fun!
5. The work shouldn't be too difficult or too easy.

Perhaps the most difficult part of teaching children is to know the correct level of work for them. The key is that it should not be too difficult, or else they simply won't be able to do it. It shouldn't be so easy that they can already do it all. It will take you some time to work out the right level for your child, but by asking them what they are doing at school, you should be able to find the right level together.

Nursery and Reception Children

SfA is used for all your child's learning. The next page gives ideas for helping them and includes maths as well as reading and writing skills.

Children in Years 1-6

Your children will be learning to read and write using SfA, so the advice on your pages will focus on these skills. There are two programmes, Roots is a learning to read and write programme, and Wings is for older, more experienced readers and writers. Ask your child which programme they use at school and then read the advice for them.

Please do let your school know if you find it useful and if you have any questions.

It will help us to make sure we provide the information you need.

Nursery and Reception Children

Talk to your children

Talking about life and discussing their world is one of the most powerful ways you can help your child. Talk about almost anything, the sun, family, friends, dinosaurs, or even why you like certain foods. Children will be interested, and it will build their vocabulary and their knowledge of the world.

Vocabulary- teach a new word every day!

Children need to know 50,000 words by the end of their schooling, so teaching one or more words a day is an important way you can help. Choose a word they don't know and help them to understand it by:

- Explaining or showing them what it is.
- Acting out the meaning of the word.
- Any other way you can think of to explain the meaning.

Use the word as much as possible for days and weeks!

Read to and with your child

Read together every day.



Ask questions about the story, such as:

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Which character do you like best? Why?

Phonics/ Letter Sounds: children read and write using phonics. The first skill is to be able to say the sound that each letter represents. If you watch this video <https://vimeo.com/399197075>, (Many thanks to St Mary's Primary School, Moss side, Manchester.) it will help children learn the alphabet sounds. Be careful, sounds are different to 'letter names' which you know from

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alphabet chants. You need to be careful how you and your child say the sounds, many need to be said softly so the sound does not have an 'uh' sound at the end, so 'd' instead of 'duh'. We call these 'pure sounds.'

Show your child a letter, ask them to tell you the sound. If they don't know it, tell them what it is and have them practise looking at the letter and saying it. Repeat until they know all the alphabet sounds. It is best to focus on 1-3 new sounds at a time.

Maths

Count everything, forks, spoons, fingers, toes etc. See how many objects your child can count by themselves, and then count together beyond that. Doing this, many times will teach them to count and understand numbers. Place objects in a row, so they only count them once. Begin to ask, "What is one more?" Always check their counting together to see if they are right.

Physical Development

Having a strong body and learning to use tools helps children to become good learners. This activity will help them to burn off energy and have fun as well.

Airplane landing! Throw paper planes, then ask children to collect them up, but they can't walk. Tell them to crawl, hop, skip, twirl or run to bring the plane back to the finish line.