



LITERACY

Early, First and Second Level

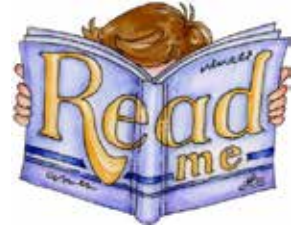


EARLY LEVEL - Reading

Reading: Hints and Tips for helping your child with reading at Early Level

As soon as possible surround your child with reading material: picture books, cloth books etc. Read with your child, enjoy reading and discussing stories.

Print is all around in the environment and it is important children know that we are reading information from signs, symbols, logos, text and technology. Once they begin to identify printed/written letters it is important children understand that they blend sounds together to make a word. Repetition of blending activities will help secure the foundations for reading. Below are a few activities to help develop your child's blending skills.



Blending Activities

- Using sound cards to build short words – start with 2 letter words and progress to 3 letter words.
- I Spy the first, middle or last sound in a word.
- Matching word to pictures.

In addition to this there are words that cannot be sounded out and can be learnt by sight - see spelling information on the other side of this page. Before your child begins to spell such words - they should be able to read them.

Help your child during reading by -

- Praising attempts at new words;
- Prompting if required;
- Ask questions about the illustrations;
- Ask questions about what might happen next?
- Playing games with your child and enjoying looking at words
- Use i-pad/computer related apps



Please also continue to read with your child at every opportunity - including library books, story books, bed-time stories, comics, menus,

recipes, invitations, shop signs, instructions, birthday cards, information on the laptop/i-pad etc.

And last but not least enjoy listening to your child!

EARLY LEVEL - Spelling

Spelling: Hints and Tips for helping your child to learn initial letters and spelling words at Early Level

Words are all around us and children will already be aware of the shape of letters and that letters combine together to make words. You can help your child by drawing their attention to these words and shapes. Some spelling words are regular and easy to sound out; others will be irregular 'tricky' words which don't follow the usual rules.



Parents/Carers can support children when they show an interest by talking about the letter sound. This will support the learning which they will meet in the early level setting.

Below is a list of games/ activities for your child to try in order to help make learning letter sounds and spelling words more interesting and to provide some variety. Families and pupils can experiment with different activities; find out which ones work for your child and which ones don't, vary the activity, use your own and your child's ideas too.

- Look for letters that are all around us
- Make words using playdough
- Finger paint words
- Use the computer to type your words
- Write words in sand
- Paint words on the pavement with water
- Use chalk to write your words
- Magnetic letters
- Play I Spy – find your words in a reading book or when you are out and about.
- Play Noughts and Crosses

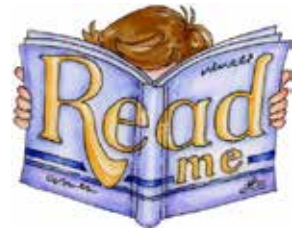


FIRST LEVEL - Reading

Reading: Hints and Tips for helping your child with reading at First Level

Children learn to read by reading and being read to, the more often they read the quicker they learn. Children need to read pages/books more than once to develop fluency, expression, accuracy and, most importantly, understanding. Being able to **read** a book does not always mean pupils can **understand** it.

I could 'read' a Physics textbook but I wouldn't understand any of it!



Children should be encouraged to read with an adult at home every day. This should include a variety of material e.g. comic, story book, newspaper, non-fiction texts, use your child's library books from school visit to help etc.

Each time children reread the same pages/book they should improve:

Fluency - reading smoothly and noticing punctuation such as full stops.

Pronunciation - saying words clearly, including the end of words and 't' sounds.

Expression - making the story sound interesting by changing their voice.

Accuracy - making fewer mistakes.

Understanding - being able to recall/chat/answer questions about the book.

Here are some suggestions for supporting your child with their reading and ensuring they understand what they are reading. Try one or two questions or ideas at a time and vary them each night.

Before starting to read a new book ask your child:

- To look at the front cover of the book and read the title.
- To find the author's name and the illustrator's name if it is given.
- To see if there is some 'blurb' on the back of the book and read it.
- Is the book-fiction (a made up story) or non-fiction (an information book or true story)?
- What do they think the story is going to be about having looked at the book's cover?
- What do you hope to learn? (non-fiction books)

During reading:

- Stop your child at times and ask them what has happened so far, to predict what might happen next, how a character might be feeling or how they might feel in that situation.
- Ask if your child has any questions.

- Ask your child to try to figure out new or tricky words by themselves first, by looking at the start of the word and any pictures and thinking 'What word would make sense here?'
- If they make a mistake wait and see if they notice it and self correct. If not say 'You made a mistake on that page/sentence can you find it and fix it?'
- If there are any tricky words that they don't understand, ask what they think it might mean first before explaining the meaning if they are unsure.

After reading:

- If it is a fictional book - Can you re-tell the story? What did you enjoy most about the story?
- Who were the main characters? Who was your favourite character? What was the problem in the story? How did the characters solve the problem? Can you think of a different ending? Do you have any questions about the story? What is the main idea of the story?
- If it is a nonfiction book - Show me your favourite picture. Tell me your favourite part. Tell me something new you learned from the book. Tell me something else you already know about the same thing. What else would you like to know about this subject now? Do you have any questions about this subject?



Spelling: Hints and Tips for helping your child to learn spelling words at First Level

Some spelling words are regular and easy to sound out, others will be irregular 'tricky' words which don't follow the usual rules. Little and often is most effective when learning any new skill.

Pupils should practise spelling regularly throughout the week.



Below is a list of games/activities for your child to try in order to help make learning spelling words more interesting and to provide some variety. Families and pupils can experiment with different activities, find out which ones work for your child and which ones don't, vary the activity, use your own and your child's ideas too.

Suggested activities for learning spelling words

- Can you find any of your spelling words in your reading book or in another book?
- Get an adult to say a word to you - spell it back to them or write it down.
- Pupils may begin by saying the sounds of the letters but will then progress to saying the names of the letters when spelling words out loud.
- Fast spell - Pick one word - time yourself - how many times can you write it in one minute?
- Fast spell 2 - With an adult - who can write the word the most in one minute?
- Noughts and crosses-Each player chooses a different word, decide who is going first, write your word instead of X and O, 3 in a row wins!
- Spell it - Keep it! Write your words on pieces of scrap paper, mix up and spread face down, each person takes turns choosing a word and asking the other person to spell it. If they get it right they keep the word. Count up - who is the super speller?
- Finger writing - In the air, on the carpet, on someone's back. Can another person figure out which word you wrote. Get an adult to write words on your back - can you work them out?
- Write your words outside on slabs or concrete with chalk or a wet paint brush.
- Pasta/bead writing - Use dried pasta shapes or beads to spell out your words.
- Use play-dough to create your words.
- Write your words in shaving foam – squirt the foam into a tray and use your finger to trace the words.

- Scrabble - Use Scrabble tiles to make your words, mix up the letters and do it again, get someone to time you. Can you do it faster each time?
- Salt/Sand/Glitter/Flour writing - Pour salt, sand, glitter or flour onto a tray, shallow box or large plate and finger write some of your words.
- Type your words on a computer.

Useful Websites -

www.galacticphonics.com

www.crickweb.co.uk

www.starfall.com

www.topmarks.co.uk

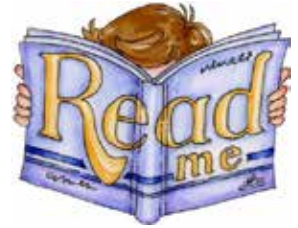


SECOND LEVEL - Reading

Reading: Hints and Tips for helping your child develop their reading skills at Second Level

Experience! Experience! Experience!

During second level reading, your child will experience a variety of genres and texts to enrich their vocabulary and enable them to transfer skills across their learning and to real life experiences.



Reading at second level is not only about reading a book, but encompasses a variety of texts such as newspaper articles, magazines, on-line documents and journals etc. Children can be encouraged when they visit the library to borrow different kinds of books.

2nd level

Children should aim to carry out 30 minutes uninterrupted reading each day.

As well as continuing to encourage children to improve the key skills of fluency, pronunciation, expression, accuracy and understanding, which are developed at 1st level, children will extend their engagement with HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills). Children should be able to ask and answer a variety of questions which go beyond the text which is in front of them.

The children should be able to apply these skills across all text types.

HOTs are

Remembering - Recall of information within the text.

Understanding - Retelling the information in your own words or using information for another purpose.

Applying - Apply what you have learnt from that text into a different situation.

Analyzing - Compare and contrast information, investigate what you have discovered.

Evaluating - Debate what you have read, how would you react in a similar situation.

Creating - Use information you have gathered to create a new activity or to write a bout a new idea.

Here are some suggestions for developing your child's reading skills.

Before starting to read a text ask your child:

- Look at the title/heading
- See if there is any information on the front/back, top/bottom and identify the genre and possible contents of the text



Helpful Hints during reading:

- Stop your child at times and ask them to predict what might happen next, how a character might be feeling or how they might feel in that situation.
- Discuss new and unfamiliar vocabulary. Ask your child to have another look at the text.
- If they make a mistake wait and see if they notice it and self-correct. If not say, 'You made a mistake on that page/sentence can you find it and fix it?'
- If there are any tricky words that they don't understand, ask what they think it might mean first before explaining the meaning if they are unsure.



Here are some examples of conversations you might have with your child

- Summarise the main points in the text
- Ask your child to identify 5 questions they would ask a character/author
- Predict what will happen next
- Look for words that are interesting, confusing or new and find out the meaning
- What are the similarities between this text and another piece you have read and explain your reasoning
- Discuss the differences and similarities between genres
- Ask your child to use the information they have gained from the text in a new and exciting way e.g. devise a game centered around the book or plot or create a poster advertising the book and what it is about.
- Write a song based on the book or invent a quiz based on the information.



SECOND LEVEL - *Spelling*

Spelling: Hints and Tips for helping your child develop their spelling skills at Second Level

Your child may be given a bank of words to learn to spell each week, these words will be revisited/assessed in class.

Some spelling words are regular and easy to sound out, others will be irregular 'tricky' words. The spelling words given to your child to learn will combine a variety of resources, including the Heathhall Spelling Programme, Jolly Grammar and through the context they are currently learning in class.



Below is a list of games/activities for your child to try in order to help make learning spelling words more interesting and to provide some variety. Families and pupils can experiment with different activities, find out which ones work for your child and which ones don't, vary the activity, use your own and your child's ideas too.

Suggested activities for learning spelling words and support homework if given

- Use interactive resources such as spellingcity.com
- Look, cover, write, check
- Use spelling rules where applicable e.g. "knock off the e when you add ing" (make-making)
- Look for words within words e.g. unusual
- Break the word into syllables
- Look for your words in other texts
- Use highlighters and colours to identify the spelling sound/pattern (in extended texts)
- Say the word to your child and get them to write it down.
- Play games like Boggle, Scrabble and Hangman
- Create/use mnemonics
 - "My Nan Eats Mountains Of Nachos In Chilli Sauce".
 - "Big Elephants Can't Always Understand Small Elephants".
- Children can make a crossword for another adult/pupil to complete
- Anagrams, such as '**eutifbaul**' = beautiful



There are many websites that can make a crossword/wordsearch for your child to complete, such as

www.puzzle-maker.com/CW

www.armoredpenguin.com/crossword

Here are some helpful websites that can assist your child in helping to learn their words.

www.spellcity.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english

www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html

www.topmarks.com

www.primarygamesarena.com



Heathhall School
Heathhall
Telephone 01387 702590
www.heathhallschool.ik.org
Head Teacher Mrs K McLean