

Information for Parents

East Renfrewshire Council
Education Department

First Steps in Reading

Going to primary school is a big step for your son or daughter.

They're looking forward to having a school bag , to wearing their uniform , making new friends and to meeting their teacher.

And they look forward, just as much to learning to read and write.

That's where, as a parent, you can help.

For, as your son or daughter's first teacher, you can help them take those vital steps in reading and writing – before they actually start school in August.

So here are a few ideas you can try.

They won't take up more than a few minutes per day.

And you'll enjoy the fun of learning, just as much as your son or daughter enjoys his or her first steps.

Make time to chat

Talk with your son or daughter

Let them tell you how they feel

Listen to what they're saying to you

Always try to answer their questions

Value their opinions

Encourage them to ask questions

Make time for nursery rhymes

Listening to nursery rhymes and remembering them is an enjoyable way of learning about sounds in words.

Picking up words which rhyme, such as wall, fall and all, help children learn to read and write.

And you can enjoy sharing rhymes old and new with your son or daughter. Listen out for radio and TV adverts. They often use rhyming jingles.

Make reading fun

Share a book together
Talk about the cover and pictures
Read and point from left to right
Talk about what will happen next
Let your son or daughter see you reading
Give them their own special books
Encourage them to “read” the book by telling you about what’s in the pictures
Read that special book or books with them time and again

Play word games

I Spy

Finding everyday things whose names start with the same letter

Playing with plastic letters

Look out for reading all around

Point out signs to your son or daughter when you go shopping.

And point out the names of packets, signs and notices.

It’s a short step from recognising logos and symbols, such as Macdonalds, Burger King or Esso, to recognising letters such as A, B and C.

Go to your local library

Take your son or daughter along to join

Introduce them to library books

Help them to choose books to take home

The Next Steps

Take any or all of the first steps which we’ve suggested and your son or daughter will be well on the way to taking his or her own next steps in reading when school starts in August.

Quality Education for all

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