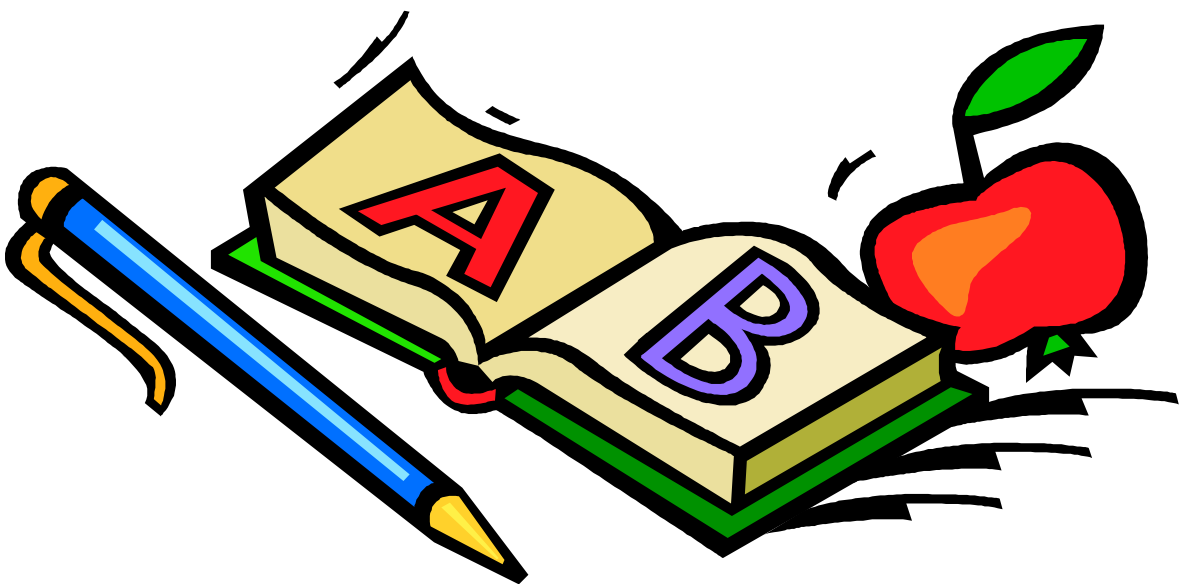




LITERACY LEARNING HINTS AND TIPS FOR BARASSIE PRIMARY PARENTS



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Introduction

In Barassie Primary we believe that all children should have the enjoyment and satisfaction that comes from reading and writing. This booklet gives practical suggestions on how you, as parents/carers, can assist in your child's learning, and help them create good learning habits. We hope you find it useful.

How to help



You have a tremendous influence on your child's attitude towards reading and writing. Remind them that everybody is good at something and even though they may find reading and writing difficult, they have other strengths.

- Your child's success will be greatly increased if he or she feels confident.
- Believe in them and show how proud you are of them.
- Praise them when they make an effort.

Reading



Tips to help encourage your child to enjoy reading.

- Set aside a special time and place for reading. Don't let the phone or TV distract your child.
- When you listen to your child read give plenty of praise.
- Don't rush - let your child turn the pages.
- Help keep your child interested and enthusiastic about reading by giving him or her a wide range of reading materials, including comics, magazines etc.
- Everybody enjoys being read to. If your child is interested in, but can't read a particular book - read it to him or her.
- Discuss the pictures together and what might happen in the story.
- Share the story with your child, reading as little or as much as s/he feels comfortable with.
- Let him/her re-read favourite stories.
- If your child is stuck at a word, use strategies such as picture cues, word attack skills and sounding out to help. If this doesn't work then give the word.

For the older child

- Be prepared for the fact that as your child becomes older, they may see reading as a lower priority than finishing off the larger amounts of homework that they will receive. **GIVE LOTS OF PRAISE.**
- Assist with the reading of textbooks, worksheets etc when requested.
- Assist in the learning of key words for the unit of work being covered.
- Encourage the reading of a variety of materials-comics, magazines, car/bike manuals etc.

But most of all, regardless of the age of the child - make reading fun and enjoyable.

Please note: Hearing, speech and eyesight all have a part to play in the development of reading. Always have these medically checked to eliminate any problems.

Spelling



You can practise and play together to improve your child's spelling.

Here are some things you can try.

- Practise tricky and common words.
- Type the word.
- Look at the word and concentrate on the tricky part. Close your eyes and imagine the word before trying to rewrite it.
- Colour and trace over the word in different colours.
- Say the word slowly as you write it.
- Take one of the words and try to make as many other words with the same sound e.g. sound, found, round, ground.

For older children

- Look through newspapers and magazines to highlight spelling list words.
- Encourage use of a spell master if she/he has one.
- Encourage use of a key word list found at front of homework diary.
- Use the Look, Cover, Write, Check strategy demonstrated on the next page.



- **LOOK** - Carefully read word. Use Make and Break technique. Break down into syllables.
- **SAY** - Say it aloud.
- **COVER**- Cover the word and try to imagine it.
- **WRITE**- Remember the 'cue.'
- **CHECK** - If it is misspelt, say what is wrong. What do you have to remember? Try again.

For younger children

- Encourage your child to identify the letter by sound rather than name (eg d-duh rather than dee).
- Finger trace over wooden or magnetic letter while saying the sound.
- Look for letters in other places, eg street signs, car registrations, etc.
- Write letters with coloured pencils, chalks, paint, water.
- Bubble and rainbow words

- When starting spelling look for word families, eg cat, sat, mat.
- Make sure your child knows the vowels are aeiou.
- Use magnetic letters to make word.
- Over learning is the key to overcoming difficulties.

Games to encourage spelling skills

Jigsaws, dot to dot, spot the difference, matching games, flash card bingo, memory games, snap, lotto, dominoes, pegboard pattern making, odd man out games, I-spy, word-making with wooden or magnetic letters. Making letters with plasticine.



Handwriting



Tips for handwriting

- Make sure child is sitting comfortably.
- Use a sharpened pencil.
- Encourage child to use two hands to write!
- Children should be encouraged to form letters correctly and where letters should be placed - on, above, or below the line.
- Make writing fun - write lists, birthday cards, invitations and thank-you letters.

Feeling Organised



It is important to understand the difficulties dyslexic children have in the classroom. In addition to reading, writing and spelling, they may find it difficult to remember instructions or organise themselves or their ideas. Every

child learns differently and not everything will help every child.

Brainstorming and Mind Mapping

Write as many ideas as you can down on post its. These can then be organised onto a Mind Map. The advantage of post-its is that they can be moved about.

Planning

Use a weekly planner to help your child remember items for school, such as PE Kit. Keep a special place where all completed work and special things for school should go

Homework

The main reasons for homework are -

- Practising a new skill.
- Finishing a piece of work started in class.
- Learning for a test.
- Finding out about a new topic.

Help your child use contents pages, glossaries and index when using reference books.



Dyslexia Friendly Homework Tips for Barassie Parents/Carers

- Keep calm. Dealing with homework can be tricky!
- Try to provide a quiet time and place for homework.
- Setting a routine with a visual planner is a good idea, with room for flexibility around after school activities and the need for a "brain break" immediately after school.
- Choose a time that suits both child and other family members.
- Make sure your child is clear what homework has been set, when it has to be completed, and how long it should take.
- Is the homework diary being used?
- Check your child understands what to do - if not, do what you can to help. A best effort will always be appreciated.
- Chunk homework into manageable bits with time for a break in between.
- Use encouragement rather than criticism.
- Do use reward activities for good attempts.
- Mistakes are OK - your child's teacher uses homework results to assess understanding.

- Encourage using a timer and a checklist to tick off.
- Don't do the homework for your child but do give suggestions and support.
- For written work check with your child's teacher what formats are acceptable - bullet points, mind maps, story boards.
- Help your child to edit, self monitor and check their work as they go along.
- Encourage computer skills.
- Reading practice is very important - for 5 minutes a day - using any material your child likes. This needn't be a book - newspapers, comics, instruction leaflets, recipes are all fine as long as the child can recognise some of the words. Use the **5 finger rule** - your child puts a finger on every word he doesn't know. Once all 5 fingers have been used up on one page, the text may be too hard for individual reading.
- Keeping a home reading log is a good idea.
- Use paired reading where you and your child read the words together out loud in a relaxed way - the child can ask to take over, or to have a break while you read.
- If homework is becoming a battle or your child is distressed, or avoids homework, try to find out why in a calm low key way, and contact your child's teacher for advice.

Computers and Literacy Skills



Word processing is very helpful for dyslexic pupils:

- It is easier and quicker to press a key than form a letter.
- Typing looks good throughout and the pupil ends up with a piece of work they can be proud of.
- Print on screen is easier for them to identify mistakes.
- It is easier to edit mistakes.
- Random thoughts and words can be moved and put in order.
- This is also very good for children with severe handwriting difficulties.

You can help your child by encouraging them to find their way round a key board. The spell checking facility can help, but remember these are not designed for dyslexic children.

Useful Websites

<http://www.dyslexiatransition.org>

<http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk>

<http://www.countmein.org.uk>

www.actiondyslexia.co.uk

www.frameworkforinclusion.org/dyslexiaassessment

Most importantly if you have any concerns or need any help or support please contact the school.