

Strategies for supporting literacy and numeracy at home

\*Make sure experiences are fun and threaded through play. Don’t make learning formal.

\*Get outdoors and enjoy physical movement and experiences

*“This not only forms the basis of good physical development but provides the necessary foundation for all learning, Balance, control, agility, coordination of eye, brain and muscles, combined with being able to handle materials correctly, and having good body control can lead to feelings of confidence and self –worth. These are keys to learning and will give children a better start in reading, writing and counting.”* NHS Play@home

\*Talk, talk, talk… then talk some more!

*“Early language skills – listening, understanding words, speaking, and building vocabulary – are the vital foundation that enable children to learn to read: children first learn to talk and then learn to read.”* Care Inspectorate: Getting Ready to Read

\*Take your child along to the library and borrow books on a regular basis. Try out the Bookbug app on your smart phone.

<http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug/bookbug-resources/bookbugs-songs-and-rhymes-app>

\* To support language development, commenting on what your child is doing is *“preferable to questioning but the occasional question can have impact. Open questions prompt thinking. “I wonder what will happen if…?” invites comments. Home support for vocabulary makes a difference”* Word Aware

\*Provide differing sizes of paper and mark making tools. Try to avoid manufactured books which promote colouring in/over writing.

\*Allow children to experiment and explore materials such as counters, dice etc and introduce the language of maths through conversations which evolve naturally through play.

\* Links to online booklets and ideas on the St Ninians Nursery Blog

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/stniniansnursery/>

The Language of Maths

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Large | More | First | Just over | Less | Guess how many? |
| Big | Less | Next | Just under | Many | Estimate |
| Bigger | Few | Last | Exact | Few | Bigger than |
| Biggest | Fewer | Before | Exactly | More than | Is the same |
| Medium | Great | After | Too many | Fewer than | And |
| Middle | More than | Full | Not enough | Too many | Add |
| Small | Less than | Empty | enough | Too few | Plus makes |
| Smaller | Bigger than | Half full | Zero | First | Altogether |
| Smallest | Smaller than | Nearly | Nothing | Number after | Equals |
| Next | Heavy | Close to | None | Number before | Take away |
| Last | Light | Almost | No more | Number between | Subtract |
| Measure | Heavier | Around about | How many? | Last | How many now? |
| Size | Lighter | About the same as | More | Last but one | How many more make..? |
| Compare | Heaviest | Circle | Over | Beside | How many are left over? |
|  | Lightest |  |  |  | Slide |
| Guess | Weight | Square | Under | Next to | Roll |
| Estimate | Balance | Triangle | Above | Opposite | Turn |
| Length | Scales | Rectangle | Below | Apart | Stretch |
| Width | Straight | star | Top | Between | Bend |
| Height | Round |  | Bottom | Middle | Find |
| Depth | Curved |  | Side | Edge | Split |
| Same as | Swirl |  | On | Corner | Separate |
| Too small | Pattern |  | Beside | Direction | Repeat |
| Too short | Sequence |  | Next to | Left |  |
| Too big | Corner |  | Opposite | Right |  |
| Too long | Face |  | Apart | Up |  |
|  | Side |  | In front | Down |  |
|  | edge |  | Behind | Forwards |  |
|  |  |  | Front | Backwards |  |
|  |  |  | Back | Sideways |  |
|  |  |  | Before | Across |  |
|  |  |  | After |  |  |

Play@Home booklet