

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.

Home Learning Advice Roots

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Roots Children – Years 1 & 2

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 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.

Spelling

Some words cannot be sounded out and need to be learnt. We teach these by 'Say-Spell-Say', saying the word, then saying the names of the letters, and then saying the word again, while looking at and remembering the word. Your child will know how to do this. Spellings your child needs to learn include - **love, have, put, because, said**. Ask your child to write these words and if they can't spell them then teach

them, one at a time. Repeat Say-Spell-Say for each word six times daily so they will remember the spelling.

Read with your child daily

Reading to your child and having them read to you every day for at least 30 minutes is very important. You can find good online books at <https://www.storylineonline.net/> and audible books to listen to are free during the Covid crisis at <https://stories.audible.com/discovery>.

Talk with your child about the book you have read. Ask questions about what happened, why it happened, what do they think will happen to the characters next or any other interesting question you may think of. These discussions will help children to learn new words and better understand what they have read. The more you discuss books the easier it will become and the more you will both enjoy it.

Writing

It is important that your child practises writing.

- Choose something fun for them to write about, a film they have watched, favourite game, friend, food if it is of interest.
- Talk through the topic with them before they write so they have some clear ideas.
- Provide them with the beginning of the first sentence. So, if writing about a film it could begin 'I like The Incredibles because...'
- Encourage them and praise their writing, even if has errors. Writing is difficult because it involves many skills - knowing what to write, handwriting, spelling, punctuation and several other skills. We all make mistakes when we write, and young writers take time to spell every word correctly and to get everything right.