

Make reading fun

- Have discussions together about books – read the books your child is reading
- Encourage Internet research about topics of interest – note what they are keen on
- Make your home a reader-friendly home with plenty of books, magazines, newspapers that everyone can read – look for books and magazines at fairs and second-hand shops. Ask your family if they have any they no longer want. Let your child see you reading.
- Share what you think and how you feel about the characters, the story or the opinions in magazines and newspapers you are reading. It is important that your child sees you as a reader and you talk about what you are reading.
- Find books of movies or TV programmes. It can help your child to learn different ways to tell the same story if they read the 'stories' they have watched.



Read Together

- Help your child identify an author, character or series of books they particularly like and find more in the series or by the author
- Talk about the lyrics of songs or the words of poems your child is learning, and see if there are any links to who they are, and where they come from
- Think about subscribing to a magazine on your child's special interest, eg animals, science or sport, or check out the magazines at the library, or on the Internet
- Read the same book or magazine as your child. You can then share your ideas about what you have read. You could talk about why the authors made the choices they did when writing the story.
- Go to your local library to choose books together. These might be books your child can read easily by themselves. They might be books your child wants to read but are a bit hard - you can help by reading a page to them, then helping them read the next one

Make writing fun

- Encourage your child to write about their heroes, sports events, hobbies and interests to help keep them interested in what they are writing about
- Play word games and do puzzles together. Games and puzzles such as crosswords, tongue twisters and word puzzles help build your child's knowledge of words, spelling, thinking and planning skills
- Start a blog about a family interest. Find a topic you're both interested in and set up your own blog.



Here's a tip - be a great role model. Show your child that you write for all sorts of reasons. Let them see you enjoying writing. Use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.

Write for a reason

- Suggest your child is responsible for the weekly shopping list, equipment list for weekends away and holidays, task lists for the week
- Encourage your child to write to others - emails, letters, texts, postcards. It will help if some of what your child writes about is for others
- Short stories or a journal/diary – on paper or on a computer – can help them to write about their experiences and their own feelings about things that have happened at school, in their family, in the world, at sports events and on TV
- Report on a new baby or pet addition to the family. This might be a slide show, scrapbook, page on the computer
- Write persuasively- for a special request – trip, event, present etc
Draw up written contracts for agreed jobs; eg Every day I will...(make my bed, do one lot of dishes, and when I complete the contract I can choose...).

Talk about your child's writing

Talk about ideas and information they are going to write about. Discussing the information and main ideas can help their planning for writing and their understanding, too

Share enjoyment of their writing. Read and talk about the writing that your child does. Give praise for things they have done well and say what you liked and why – this all supports their learning

Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write – look words up in the dictionary or on the Internet to find out more about what they mean.

Share your own writing with your child – lists, letters and emails. You can help them to see that you too use writing for different purposes.

Talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns

- count forwards and backwards (starting with numbers like these fractions: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$ then back again)
- talk about large numbers in your environment e.g., computer game scores, distances
- talk about the phases of the moon and link these to the best times for fishing/planting
- talk about the patterns in the night sky – summer and winter. What changes and why?
- find and read large numbers in your environment eg nineteen thousand, three hundred and twenty-three
- learn number pairs to 100 eg 81 and what equals 100?
- read car number plates, look at the car's odometer to see how far you've gone
- work out patterns – make codes from numbers.
- talk about graphs and tables that are in your local newspapers.



Use easy, everyday activities

- making dinner at home– look at how many and how much is needed for the people eating (potatoes, carrots, sausages). Talk about fractions (half, quarter, fourth) to calculate how much to cook and cooking times
- helping at the supermarket – look for the best buy between different brands of the same item and different sizes of the same item (e.g., toilet paper, cans of spaghetti, bottles of milk) work out new prices when % off
- looking at the nutrition table on food labels – how much fat, sugar, salt - and deciding on the healthiest choice
- practising times tables – check with your child or their teacher which tables you could help them with.
- telling the time e.g., 5 past, 10 past, 20 past, $\frac{1}{4}$ to, 25 to..

Get together with your child and:

play card and board games using guessing and checking
cook – make a pizza, working out who likes what toppings, making and cooking it, and making sure the pizza is shared fairly

Make a kite out of different shapes and materials. How high can it go, how long can it fly for?

Look through catalogues/junk mail ask them what they would buy if they had £10,£5,£100 etc– how much change would they get etc

Talk about sales in town – 25% off, 30%, 10%, half price. Look for the best value and make a game of calculating the savings on items your child is interested in

play travel games – invent mathematics games to play while walking with friends, travelling in the car, at the park

plan for a family event, like a dinner. What is the cheapest option – cooking at home or getting takeaways?



Supporting Your Child's Learning
At Home

Upper Key Stage Two

Learning for life anchored in Christ