

Dear Parents

We are aware that it is difficult to know where to start when supporting your child with their learning at home. Therefore we have put together some ideas and websites that you can use to support both PSED, Physical Development, reading, writing and number at home. Remember these are ongoing things and don't all have to be completed but can be used to support your child over the following term and beyond.

PSED

Half term is the best time to encourage your child to be independent. When getting ready for going out start getting ready a few minutes earlier so that you can let your child put their own shoes, coat, hat, gloves and scarf on. They could even try and zip / button it up independently (don't try and do this when you are in a rush though as this will become stressful for everyone!)

Play board games to encourage sharing and turn taking.

Encourage your child to help with chores around the house i.e. laying the table, tidying up when they have finished playing with something.

Physical Development:

Thread o shaped cereal onto dry spaghetti.

Snip straws or paper into pieces.

Post coins into a money box.

Make a paper clip chain.

Put clothes pegs around the top of a paper cup.

Make a paper ball and throw into a target.

Wrap a present.

Reading:

Log into <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/#>

You will need to create a log in for home use but once logged in this gives you access to a variety of different books that you can share with your child. It also has comprehension activities to complete. Remember your child may not be able to read any words at the moment but that is fine. Follow these tips to enable you and your child to have fun while reading!

Tip 1 - Talk to Your Child

Oral language is the foundation for reading. Listening and speaking are a child's first introduction to language.

Talking and singing teach your child the sounds of language, making it easier for him or her to learn how to read.

Here are some things you can do to help your child build an appreciation for words and language:

- Tell family stories about yourself, your child's grandparents, and other relatives.
- Talk to your child as much as possible about things you are doing and thinking.
- Ask your child lots of questions.
- Encourage your child to tell you what he or she thinks or feels.
- Ask your child to tell you about his or her day - about activities and games played.
- Be patient! Give your child time to find the words he or she wants to use.
- Sing songs, such as the alphabet song, and recite nursery rhymes, encouraging your child to join in.
- Play rhyming and riddle games.

Tip 2 - Make Reading Fun

Reading aloud can be a lot of fun, not just for parents but also for all family members. Here are some ways to get the

Most out of reading to your young child:

- Read with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out a story.
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in.
- Point to words as you read them. This will help your child make a connection between the words he or she hears you say and the words on the page.
- Read all kinds of material - stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books as gifts.
- Subscribe to a magazine for your child. He or she will love receiving mail!

Tip 3 - Read Every Day

Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.

Try to read with your child as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.

- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.

- Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"! Set aside a special shelf in that area for your child's books.
- Choose a variety of books.
- Read slowly so that your child can form a mental picture of what is happening in the story.
- Praise your child for his or her ideas and participation!

Tip 4 - Set an Example

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

You can also share many daily reading activities with your child. Here are some ideas:

- Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions, and brochures.
- Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.
- Look up information in cookbooks, manuals, phone books, atlases, and dictionaries.
- Read greeting cards, letters, and e-mail messages to and from relatives and friends.

Tip 5 - Talk about Books

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases.

Here are some ways to help your child acquire skills in comprehension, reasoning, and critical thinking:

- Ask your child about the kinds of books he or she would like to read.
- Talk to your child about your favourite books from childhood, and offer to read them.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to comment on the story and pictures in a book - before, during, and after reading it.
- Look at the cover and the title of a book with your child, and ask your child what he or she thinks might happen in the story.
- Encourage your child to think critically about the story. Does he or she agree or disagree with the author? Why?
- Give your child time to think about the story, and then ask him or her about it again a few days later

Use this great website to encourage your child to listen to sounds in the environment. Please stick to phase 1 games at the moment, as this is where we are focusing at school.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-1>

Writing:

Mark make in different mediums: e.g. mud, sand, snow, paint, shaving foam or flour

Draw with scarves and ribbons in the air

Fill a plastic wallet with paint, sequins and glitter and get them to mark-make over the pattern

Put on gloves and use a block of ice to make marks on the ground

Use coloured chalks on black paper - perhaps draw fireworks

Paint water onto walls and fences using large paint brushes

Draw on whiteboards and chalkboards

Use stencils

Number:

At Downs View we follow the mastery math's curriculum (White Rose). The Numberblocks that your child has probably seen on Cbeebies supports the mastery style of learning. Log into

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/numberblocks-help-your-child-with-maths> and

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Where you will find Numberblock episodes as well as games to support learning. Please try and keep to numbers to 5 at the moment and focus in on games that consolidate numbers to 5, compare quantities, and look at finding one more and one less.

This is another good website that supports counting skills and recognition of number.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/3-5-years/counting>

Most importantly make it fun!