



WRITING AND SPELLING ARE IMPORTANT!

Speaking and listening are the foundations on which writing, spelling and reading are built. In Years 1 and 2 your children become more familiar with words and spelling. As their confidence increases, they will start including writing in their daily activities.

What can I do?

- Explore words and books together. Read regularly together and encourage your children to read to you each day.
- Encourage your children to practise their writing regularly.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your children to concentrate when there are no distractions.

If your children speak another language or dialect, they need time to hear the sounds of the English language. It may take up to two years or longer for them to hear and say all these sounds.

- Search for words at home, and when you are out and about, as you take a walk and when you are travelling such as on signs and in shops.
- Set up a home message board and write messages to your children. Encourage them to leave messages for you and other family members.
- Write different messages together each day, such as your children's lunch order and notes to other family members.





WRITING AND SPELLING: LEARNING AT HOME

YEAR 1 & 2

A child with disability usually benefits from and enjoys the close interaction and stimulation provided when they are read their favourite stories or are sung a nursery rhyme. If your child has a disability, their school supports them as they participate in activities at a level suitable to their ability. Talk with your child's teacher about appropriate tools, equipment and ideas to support you and your child.

- Sit down with your children and make lists of their favourite words. Read these lists with them regularly. Display the lists in areas so it's easy for your children to see them.
- Ask your children to have a go at spelling words before giving them the correct answers.

- Make good use of junk mail! Ask your children to:
 - circle words with a certain letter such as *m* and a certain sound such as *sh*
 - underline all the two letter words, three letter words and so on
 - count how many times they can find a certain word such as *the* – this helps them recognise common words.

It's important to remember that children progress at different rates. Be patient, positive and supportive, and be sure to praise them for having a go even if they get the answer wrong.





WRITING AND SPELLING IDEAS

Read together

Read as much as you can with your children. There are many things you can read including newspapers, magazines, comics and books. These all help to build vocabulary skills.

Write together

Help your children write lists when they play, such as writing down appointments and shopping lists. Make thumb prints into cartoon characters and write conversations in speech bubbles. Write captions under photos in photo books.

It's important to remember that children progress at different rates. Be patient, positive and supportive, and be sure to praise them for having a go even if they get the answers wrong. If you are concerned about your children's progress, talk with their teachers.

Making words

See how many words can be made from one large word using only the letters in that word, for example *together* can make the words *he, get, greet, there, otter* and *other*. See how many words you can find that read the same from the front and the back, such as *dad, pup* and *madam*. These are called palindromes.

Word games

- Play *Junior Scrabble®* and *Boggle®*.
- Try *What word am I?* Think of a word, for example *batman*. Fill in one letter in the right place, such as *_ _ t _ _ _*. Ask your children to guess what the word might be. If their guess is incorrect, fill in another letter, such as *_ a t _ a _*. Continue until they guess the whole word.
- Play *Word Detective*. Ask your children questions such as: *Which word rhymes with boat?* and *What is the opposite of long?*





Write for a purpose

Make birthday and greeting cards and party invitations. Put all the things that make writing fun into a special coloured box, such as coloured paper, textas, coloured pencils, glitter glue and stickers.

Words on wheels

- Make up short sentences using the letters on number plates, such as: *BEO* equals *Bob eats oranges*, *CPP* equals *cuddly puppies play*.
- Play word association games where someone says a word and the next person says another word that is connected with it and so on, such as: *beach, fish, chips, seagulls, West Coast Eagles, football, Dockers*.

Tackling tricky words

Encourage your children to sound words out. Ask them to break the words into chunks or syllables. To begin, clap as you say each syllable, for example birthday is *birth/day* which is two claps and holiday is *hol/i/day* which is three claps.

Being able to write and spell are processes that take time. Children learn in different ways and at different rates. Be patient and always praise their efforts.

Spelling mistakes

Talk about what your children have written and their ideas then talk about their spelling. Talk together about the words that are spelt incorrectly. Talk about the sounds they can hear. Show them how to spell the word. Encourage them to find the correct spelling using a dictionary.

