

Literacy EYFS



It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

| Birth-3 | 3-4 years | Reception |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy songs and rhymes, tuning in and paying attention. • Join in with songs and rhymes, copying sounds, rhythms, tunes and tempo. • Say some of the words in songs and rhymes. • Copy finger movements and other gestures. • Sing songs and say rhymes independently, for example, singing whilst playing. • Enjoy sharing books with an adult. • Pay attention and respond to the pictures or the words. • Have favourite books and seek them out, to share with an adult, with another child, or to look at alone. • Repeat words and phrases from familiar stories. • Ask questions about the book. Makes comments and share their own ideas. • Develop play-around favourite stories using props. • Notice some print, such as the first letter of their name, a bus or door number, or a familiar logo. • Enjoy drawing freely. • Add some marks to their drawings, which they give meaning to. For example: "That says mummy." | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the five key concepts about print: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - print has meaning - print can have different purposes - we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom - the names of the different parts of a book - page sequencing • Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spot and suggest rhymes - count or clap syllables in a word - recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother • Engage in extended conversations about stories, and learning new vocabulary. • Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; or writing 'm' for mummy. • Write some or all of their name. • Write some letters accurately | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read individual letters by saying the sounds for them. • Blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter-sound correspondences. • Read some letter groups that each represent one sound and say sounds for them. • Read a few common exception words matched to the school's phonic programme. • Read simple phrases and sentences made up of words with known letter-sound correspondences and, where necessary, a few exception words • Re-read these books to build up their confidence in word reading, their fluency and their understanding and enjoyment. • Form lower-case and capital letters correctly. • Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s. • Write short sentences with words with known letter-sound correspondences using a capital letter and full stop. • Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make marks on their picture to stand for their name. | | |
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