

**Home Learning**

We have put this pack together to help you support your child at home.

We hope that it will be useful to you.



**Mark making**

Children love to imitate adults and will use a wide variety of tools and resources to make marks, these early 'scribbles' are an important part of children developing the necessary hand eye coordination needed for handwriting. For young children mark making is a sensory experience, it is as they develop they begin to understand that marks can carry meaning.

Developing the pencil grip, referred to as a tripod grip, also takes time. Children need to develop the strength in their hands, fingers and wrists. They need to be able to move their fingers separately, to use a pincer grip (using their thumb and index finger). Their wrists and thumb need to be strong. Finally, they need to learn to rest their wrist on a table and to use their non-dominant hand to hold the paper still. To execute successful writing the side of the hand needs to slide along the paper

Activities to encourage pencil grip and rotation

*These activities are fun, play activities but have a direct effect upon developing perception, control and sensory experiences. There are many other activities that offer similar opportunities*

* Playdough—pinching, squeezing, with thumb and forefinger, poking, rolling to make a snake
* Threading—beads, pasta straws. Make necklaces
* Picking up small objects using the thumb and index finger, learning to use tweezers.
* Count dried peas/pasta shapes into a pot or post pennies into a money box.
* Finger rhymes—stretching and curling fingers, moving them independently.
* Water play—using spray toys and spray bottles. Water the flowers, spray the path or windows
* Craft activities—glue sticks and paint brushes. Making collages with paper, decorating with sequins.
* Icing cakes—using a plastic dispenser to push and squeeze out the icing.
* Strengthening activities—swinging from a climbing frame, grasping to climb, crawling through tunnels.
* Stirring cake mixtures — using a two-handed operation, one to hold the bowl the other to stir. Encourage anti-clockwise rotation.



*Mark Making - this should go beyond pencil and paper and include a range of textures and media*

* Paint using an easel and large brushes Paint the paving stones/ flags with water
* Draw shapes in the air with a wand
* Dance with a ribbon in your writing hand
* Chalk on boards or dark coloured sugar paper, even chalk on your driveway!
* Draw in the sand
* Finger paint on the table with cold water paste and powder paints
* Make rubbings on rough surfaces
* Draw in cornflour ‘slime’ or shaving foam.
* Make a tactile display with objects and materials that the child can change or move.
* Use tactile natural materials for example wood, suede, hessian, fur, twigs, shells, moss, leaves, flowers, pebbles, feathers etc.

*Children’s scribblings and drawings are their way of communicating and sharing observation of their world. The adult’s role is to encourage, praise and celebrate their achievements.*



Some children will begin to try to write letters. It is always useful for parents/carers to encourage correct formation.

If children are keen to try writing their name use a felt pen, ideally yellow to write their name and then they can go over the top. Using dots to form the letters very often stop the flow of the formation, although using a dot to identify the starting point is always useful.

**m**

We also use Letterjoin, details below.

**IPAD AND TABLET LOG-IN**

Go to [www.letter-join.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk/) and then use the use the Tablet log-in option with these

 details.

User name: **crossgates**

Swipe code- start at top left

**PC DESKTOP AND LAPTOP LOG-IN**

Log in at [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk/) and use User name: crossgates
Desktop log-in option with these details: Password: ld16re

**Useful websites**

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Excellent phonics practice for children up to year 2

[teachyourmonstertoread.com](https://teach-your-monster-to-read.intercom-clicks.com/via/e?ob=lZA3rvBBeR5rHx3VR9FHMaCXBKdRsVXbI0VhedSup9Vfuy%2Bbqfr3RS1GgajrrR3V&h=6d590cc5796ebd8544287d73480a469fdf3d1108-1ixom8jj_26185550185&l=2b19a88ef6a7f99f27f928fe2981fb136a3f4442-2814491)

Has lots of free resourcesset out by subject and then year group.Teach your monster to read:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

**Reading**

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories and books. Eventually they will want to read on their own.

With the help of parents, children can learn how to read and can practise reading until they can read for their own enjoyment. Then they will have a whole world of information and knowledge at their fingertips! Reading can be a family activity. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child to:

* *gather information and learn about the world*
* *learn how stories and books work – that they have beginnings, endings, characters, and themes*
* *build a rich vocabulary by reading and talking about new words*
* *learn how to listen and how to think*
* *learn the sounds of language and language patterns*
* *fall in love with books*

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 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.*

*• Take your child to the library.*

**Numeracy**

Children need to become confident and competent in learning and using key skills.

• Understanding and using number

• Developing a mathematical language – (words used in mathematics e.g. less, fewer, shorter, makes, equals, 2 pence, o’clock, empty)

• Finding solutions to mathematical problems

• Pattern, order and relationships

• Logical thinking

 • Exploring and comparing quantities, shapes and measures

Children experience maths as part of their everyday environment. The type of maths young children now do is not writing sums but sorting socks. They need to touch and do, in order to learn, so their early maths is based on practical activities that can be incorporated into their play.

 Here are a few ideas to try:-

 *• Role play shopping – counting money, matching, recognising and writing numbers*

*• Setting the dinner table – counting, matching, ordering, position*

*• Water play – comparing volume, capacity, height and depth*

*• Climbing frame whole body experience of height, space, weight, angles and direction*

*• Outdoor walk down the street – counting, recognising numbers, experimenting with big numbers, looking for shapes Counting is a skill that children often pick up very early. At first, your child might chant numbers in a random way without focusing on each object. Don’t worry if your child doesn’t seem to count carefully to begin with, this will come later as they learn to match numbers and objects.*

*Remember to-*

*• Point to each object as you count it*

*• Take the cue from your child – if your child is not interested now, try again another day*

*• Talk about numbers in context such as “there are five buttons on your coat, but only four on mine, you’ve got more than me”*

*Lots of counting!! Buttons, pasta shapes, lego blocks……. The list is endless!*

**Useful websites**

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/kids-activities/fun-maths-games-and-activities/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk › cbeebies › topics › numeracy>

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

**Other**

[**https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKuiktSh-V3E4ysPU0VC3Q-**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKuiktSh-V3E4ysPU0VC3Q-) **Number jacks**

Numbertime- https://www.bbc.co.uk › programmes