

## Support for Literacy: key ways that you can support your child's literacy

### The essentials

Encourage reading for enjoyment	Talk, talk, talk	Give them word power!	Don't let them rush the writing	Get them reading for life	Predict the teacher: use the marking code
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### How you can help

<p>Make sure your child has a reading book in her/his bag for tutor time that is in their AR range</p> <p>Model yourself as a reader and be seen reading!</p> <p>Make time for reading at home. Listen to your child read aloud to develop their oracy skills</p> <p>Make the bookshop, the library, the book section of your local supermarket, amazon.co.uk part of your family routine</p> <p>Recommend books you have enjoyed reading</p> <p>Persist with books as gifts</p> <p>Register with <a href="http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk">www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk</a> for great reading suggestions and sample chapters</p>	<p>Talk more formally about curriculum subjects and prompt them to explain concepts or terminology to you</p> <p>Model Standard English yourself, choosing new words they might not have heard before</p> <p>Talk is invaluable as preparation for writing, so ask them to explain a task or rehearse a sentence aloud</p> <p>Use post-its to catch some of their phrases and leave them as prompts to help with writing</p>	<p>They can never know too many words or be too young to hear a new one!</p> <p><a href="http://www.visuwords.com/">http://www.visuwords.com/</a> is an exciting online dictionary and thesaurus that can make discovering new words fun</p> <p>Check their Spellfree app on their iPad and practise the spellings from subjects together</p> <p>SALAWAC (say and look and write and check ) is still the best way to learn spellings</p> <p>Phonics matters: remind them there are many patterns when trying to spell a sound</p> <p>Games to try: Play <b>Bananagrams!</b> Apps: <i>A Word a Day</i> <i>Word Bingo</i> <i>The Opposites</i> <i>Chambers Thesaurus</i></p>	<p>Write together: be the scribe and let them dictate to you</p> <p>Handwriting matters – don't accept rushed work</p> <p>Be a paragraph bore and challenge the basics of full stops and capital letters</p> <p><a href="http://www.chompchomp.com">www.chompchomp.com</a> will help everyone improve their punctuation and grammar knowledge</p> <p>Provide appealing tools for writing: tablets, arty notebooks, mini-whiteboards, a range of pens</p> <p>Insist on checking and reviewing before deciding a piece is finished</p> <p>Presentation still matters the same as it did in primary school: date, title, use the margin and a ruler</p>	<p>Make sure they have a highlighter in their pencil case; it's a reader's best friend, essential for identifying key points and details</p> <p>Get them involved in finding information you all need e.g. holiday brochures, websites, reviews of new appliances for your home</p> <p>The local newspapers, news websites, letters from school all provide information for life. Ask for reading aloud or summaries in their own words.</p> <p>Know we all need a range of reading skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Skim read to find out the gist of a text</li> <li>2. Scan to find specific information</li> <li>3. Close reading to focus on detail and think about meaning</li> </ol>	<p>Create some Over to You Time at home by asking your child to predict 3 errors the teacher might find</p> <p>If you think it looks a mess, so will we: on occasion ask them to rewrite</p> <p>Don't hesitate to contribute to marking dialogue in the subject exercise book: it can have <i>three</i> contributors: your child, us and you!</p> <p>Practise spelling corrections at home using the Spellfree app or the SALAWAC process</p>
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