



It is really important that children are able to develop their literacy skills both at school and at home. This will help them to achieve well in their reading and writing. Here are just some ideas to help your child with improve upon their literacy skills.

The target children have to reach in **reading** by the end of Foundation Stage is:

Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

The target children have to reach in **writing** by the end of Foundation Stage is:

Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others.

Helping your child at home with literacy.

-Based on REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy)

Environmental Print

Words and letters are all around us! From road signs to menus to logos on clothes and home appliances, These are fantastic resources to get the children to begin to recognise that print carries meaning!

- ◆ When on a walk, point out different every day words such as road signs, shop names, bus stop signs, and car registration plates.
- ◆ Go on a logo hunt in shops– set up a list of logos and when shopping, children can tick off the logos that they have spotted.
- ◆ Go on an environment walk and take photos of different signs you see along the way, making a scrapbook or photo map at home. OR take photos of signs on a familiar route that you take and similar to the logo hunt in shops, children tick off the signs that they can see.
- ◆ Give children a mission to find all the letter 'p's (for example) in a newspaper.



A chance to write



It is very important to give children the opportunity to write whenever possible. This will give them confidence as we begin to introduce them to phonics. Whether it is writing, copying a shopping list or signing their names on birthday cards. Here are some ways to get your children involved with mark making.

- ♦ Writing a shopping list (and using pictures)
- ♦ Signing their name on birthday cards
- ♦ Bath paints
- ♦ Using sticks to make marks in the mud
- ♦ Chalk on pavements
- ♦ Attach a pen to a toy car and draw on a big piece of paper
- ♦ Put some shaving foam or rice in a tray for children to create different marks.

In order to get children ready for writing, it helps that they have developed good fine motor skills; strength in their hands. There are many easy ways in which this can be done at home.

- ♦ Playdough– manipulating it into different shapes, models
- ♦ Using marshmallows and cocktail sticks to create structures
- ♦ Cutting around shapes and pictures
- ♦ Building using Lego or Duplo

READING!

In order to develop good use of language in children, it is important that they are exposed to it. Stories and nursery rhymes are really good ways of allowing children to discover new words and ideas. The use of rhyme also helps children recognise similar sounds.

- ♦ Read lots of bed time stories
- ♦ Get children to join in with familiar parts
- ♦ Ask what they think will happen next or think about what the next rhyming word will be.