

“Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities for the individual in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work, and contributes strongly to the development of all four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence.”

Curriculum for Excellence

Read Together Every Day

Children develop literacy and an awareness of language long before they are able to read.

It is very important to read books and stories to your child every day. It will help if you make this a warm and loving time when you can cuddle close together. **Research shows that bed time is an especially good time for reading together. It’s an excellent way to end the day on a calm, positive note and your child will sleep better if he/she feels relaxed and so will you!**

By reading aloud to your child you will help him/her to acquire skills he/she will need to be ready for school. Young children who read books at home with parents or carers benefit from improved literacy skills, higher reading achievement and a greater enthusiasm for reading that will increase the likelihood of success later on in school and in life.

Did You Know?

- We would like you to borrow a book or a Storysack from the nursery every day or as frequently as you like. Please change books at the **beginning of the morning or afternoon sessions**. Each child will have their own library bag to carry books to and from home. Please use your bag to help look after the books.
- Children are never too young to join your local library. It's free and you can borrow a great selection of books. Let your child choose some as well as those that you'd like to read.
- It is important to keep reading old favourites. Children like the predictability of a book they have heard a hundred times before.
- As children grow and knowledge increases, introduce more complex stories to challenge thinking and learning.
- Enjoy stories together. Use interesting voices for different characters and use lots of gestures and facial expression.
- It is good to read quietly sometimes to encourage careful listening.
- When reading to your child it is good to leave space in between your speech to encourage comments and questions. Try missing out words and leaving gaps for your child to answer. Rhyming books are good for this as children can guess the next word.
- It is good for your child to anticipate and predict what might happen next.
- You can help the development of your child's 'eye tracking' from left to right by running your finger under the print as you read.
- It is fun to recall repetitive parts of a story and it helps memory skills to develop.
- It is good to explore events and characters in stories as well as talking about what happens at the beginning, in the middle and at the end.
- You can encourage your child to talk about their likes and dislikes. It is good to know why your child likes or dislikes a particular book or which part they might like or not.

Remember ...

Children need to hear 1000 stories before they learn to read.

Reading books and stories with your child is one of the best gifts you will ever give. Quality time spent now will influence your child's literacy skills for the rest of their life.

Please see a member of staff if you have any questions or comments.



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