

Home Learning

Whimble guide for parents of children in Key Stage One.

Activities at home that support learning in school.

Home learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. Play and free time also have an important role in a child's growth and development. Play provides many benefits to children's development:

- It contributes to physical health and well being
- It helps children manage risks, safety and hazards
- It promotes enjoyment and achievement and motivates children to persevere in their learning
- It helps children to resolve conflicts, make good choices and feel that they belong
- It enables children to develop flexible and creative approaches to learning and problem solving

At key stage one we encourage the children to read by giving them books to take home to read with their parents. Where possible to try to hear children read individually but this may be less frequent in year 2 as children become more proficient. In school children read in groups known as guided reading. Preparing for guided reading is an important part of home learning. Other activities could include spellings, number bonds and times tables. Sometimes we ask children to find and collect things that we then use in science lessons, and occasionally we ask children to take home work that they have started in school when we believe that they would benefit from spending further time on it.

'Curriculum newsletters' give a guide to the work that children are doing in school. Though some of the activities set may be to encourage mainly independent work other pieces are designed to be shared with parents.'



Maths Activities

There is no doubt that children who have recall of number bonds and facts make better progress than those who don't. Children need to learn their number bonds for all the numbers to ten, then 20. Try the following to help them learn.

- Card games such as 'snap' but with a target number rather than matching
- Playing '21' or 'pontoon' but with a different target number
- Roll two dice and score a point every time they score their target number
- When learning table facts try writing them out on separate pieces of paper - get your child to remove the one that is easiest to remember and then read them making sure that they can recall the one they have removed. Take one more away each time
- Rearrange the pieces of paper and get them to put them back in order

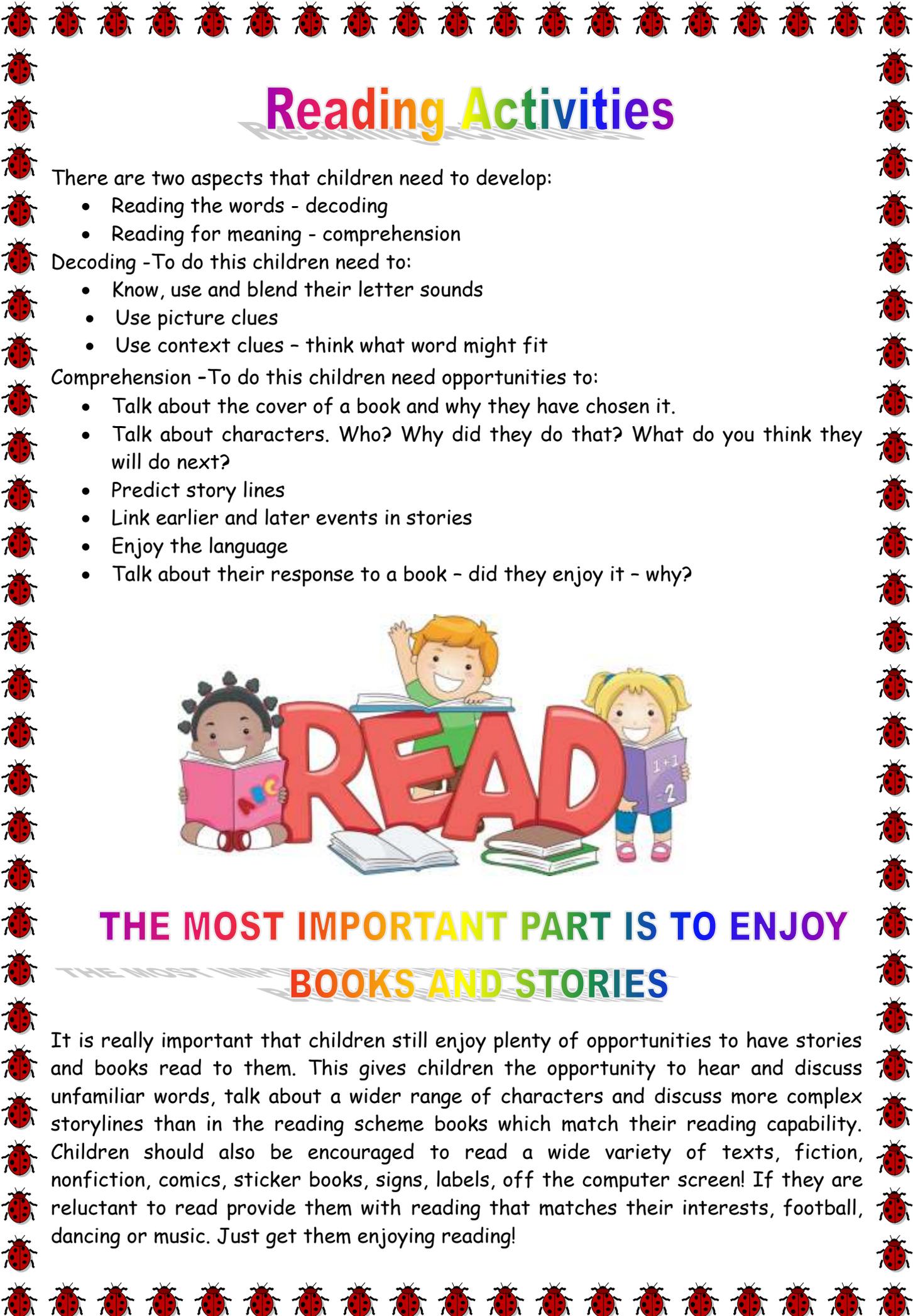
Children need to have visual images to help develop their maths. Providing them with objects to help them is not 'cheating', and it is when children move away from using objects too quickly that they can start to have difficulties. Learning number bonds by using objects and splitting them into different groups of two or grouping and sharing a number of objects supports children in learning bonds and multiplication facts.



Maths rich environments

Providing an environment where children can make links with, and use and apply the maths they do in school will also support learning. Try some of the following:

- Board games help with counting on and back - use two dice and you have addition
- Dominoes and card games for matching
- Clocks with hands - help children to understand the passing of time rather than just reading it - how long until?
- Money - name the change in my pocket
- Fractions - use the language when you can eg cakes and pizzas - halves and quarters
- Laying the table, putting the shopping away
- Cooking - counting, weighing and measuring
- Remember that children learn best when they are doing!



Reading Activities

There are two aspects that children need to develop:

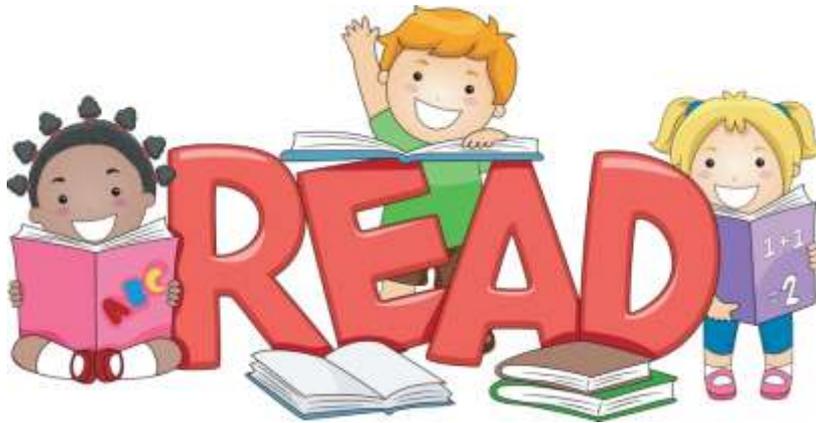
- Reading the words - decoding
- Reading for meaning - comprehension

Decoding -To do this children need to:

- Know, use and blend their letter sounds
- Use picture clues
- Use context clues - think what word might fit

Comprehension -To do this children need opportunities to:

- Talk about the cover of a book and why they have chosen it.
- Talk about characters. Who? Why did they do that? What do you think they will do next?
- Predict story lines
- Link earlier and later events in stories
- Enjoy the language
- Talk about their response to a book - did they enjoy it - why?



**THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IS TO ENJOY
BOOKS AND STORIES**

It is really important that children still enjoy plenty of opportunities to have stories and books read to them. This gives children the opportunity to hear and discuss unfamiliar words, talk about a wider range of characters and discuss more complex storylines than in the reading scheme books which match their reading capability. Children should also be encouraged to read a wide variety of texts, fiction, nonfiction, comics, sticker books, signs, labels, off the computer screen! If they are reluctant to read provide them with reading that matches their interests, football, dancing or music. Just get them enjoying reading!



Spelling Activities

Starting in year 1 children are given weekly spellings to learn. Spellings focus on children knowing a core of spellings rather than giving them lots of words with common spelling patterns. Spelling patterns continue to be taught and learnt through our morning phonic sessions.

Each child will continue to have a weekly spelling test of 10 words to learn. You will notice they may get the same words on several occasions; this is to help embed the spellings so they then apply them regularly in their writing. We continue to recommend practising them little and often throughout the week. It is also worth looking to see if they are spelling them correctly when completing any writing too.

Whereas reading involves blending letter sounds, spelling involves segmenting or splitting up words into sounds and syllables.

If your child is having difficulties learning spellings try one of the following approaches:

- Use magnetic letters instead of writing it out - you could start by giving them the correct letters to order.
- Get them to test you and then mark your answers.
- You start and they finish a word or vice versa.
- Practice them verbally in the car.



And finally

Learning should be fun! If you have any concerns, please come and talk to us.