Parents as Partners in Learning

Session 3: Writing

Week 3 Topics

This week we will be looking at

- Writing as an important skill
- How your child is taught writing
- How to help your child at home
- Time to have a go

Feed back from last week

- Phonics (reading) with your child…

- How did the last session help you to read with your child?

- What went well? What could have been better?

Time to have a go – Week 2

- Read an extra story, chosen by your child and use pause, prompt and praise
- Model phonics and encourage your child to sound out words as they read
- Try out "How not to say no"
- If possible, spend some time reading for yourself!

Why is writing important?

- Writing and reading are part of every subject your child will study at school

- They are vital for many aspects of everyday life

- It's important to encourage your child's writing skills as much as possible right from the start

Early Writing

- Children learn a lot about reading and writing before they begin school
- They are surrounded by road signs, food packets, books, lists, cards, newspapers etc..
- Early attempts at writing are called 'emergent writing' and are not scribbles!

Physical writing - Motor skills

- It is important to build up fine and gross motor skills
- These are the movements you use when doing large (gross) or small (fine) movements
- This will help to control writing
- Later we will show you what you can do at home e.g. using play dough etc

Writing at school

- Shared writing
- Guided writing
- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Story writing
- Non-fiction writing
- Word processing
- School's handwriting scheme

Reception

- Writing short sentences

- Re – reading after writing every word

- Sounding out words using phonics

- Spelling common words

Year 1

- Using phonics to read unfamiliar words
- Using capital letters at the beginning of every sentence and full stops at the end of every sentence
- Using connectives e.g. and, because.
- Adding a wow word to make the sentence more interesting and a connective to extend the sentence.

e.g. The monster crashed around the city.

The **terrifying** monster crashed around the city **because** he had got lost and couldn't find his mummy.

Year 2

- Adding adjectives to their sentences e.g. colourful, beautiful, jolly, grumpy

- Using more developed punctuation e.g. question marks, commas, speech marks.

- Developing openers and using a variety;

once upon a time , one day , one sunny Sunday morning

- Using connectives, not just and or because

- Time connectives e.g. first, then, next, finally …

Activity 1- What to write?

Working with a partner or group, come up with a list of different things that you might need to be able to write.

Suggestion – when was the last time you picked up a pen to write and what was it for?

Supporting writing at home

Create opportunities for your child to write
- letter formation worksheets
- shopping lists
- cards
- invitations

………and much more

- Have scrap paper, pencils, crayons at home

Supporting writing at home

- Spend quality time each day talking with your child
- Read to your child and tell your child stories in your first language
- Create opportunities for your child to write – look at the hand out
- Writing is difficult so any attempt should be praised
- Some boys find writing very hard so try to encourage them and make it fun!

Activities that help develop writing

Fine motor skills
- threading
- sand tray
- flour on table
- chalk
- play dough
- cutting (left handed scissors are available)

Gross motor skills
- Climbing, swinging, pulling and pushing also help

Activity 2

Invite parents and carers to try out one of the fine motor skills activities on each table.

Spend 5 mins at each table trying out the activity.

After 5 mins we will ask you to change tables to try something else.

Notice how your hands move. How does it feel?

Time to have a go…

- Try some of the activities from this session e.g. ask your child to write a shopping list using pictures and words

- Keep praising!

- Think about how these sessions have helped you. Next week we will evaluate the programme