



# **How to Help Your Child**

- First and foremost, support and reassure your child that there is nothing to worry about and that they should always just try their best. Praise and encourage!
- Ensure your child has the best possible attendance at school.
- Support your child with any homework tasks.
- Reading, spelling and arithmetic (e.g. times tables) are always good to practise.
- Talk to your child about what they have learnt at school and what book(s) they are reading (the character, the plot, their opinion).
- Make sure your child has a good sleep and healthy breakfast every morning!

## **How to Help Your Child with Reading at KS1**

Listening to your child read can take many forms:

- First and foremost, focus developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards – discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- All reading is valuable – it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides.
- Visit the local library - it's free!



# **How to Help Your Child**

## **How to Help Your Child with Writing at KS1**

- Practise and learn weekly spelling lists – make it fun!
- Encourage opportunities for writing, such as letters to family or friends, shopping lists, notes or reminders, stories or poems.
- Write together – be a good role model for writing.
- Encourage use of a dictionary to check spelling.
- Allow your child to use a computer for word processing, which will allow for editing and correcting of errors without lots of crossing out.
- Remember that good readers become good writers! Identify good writing features when reading (e.g. vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation).
- Show your appreciation: praise and encourage, even for small successes!

## **How to Help Your Child with Maths at KS1**

- Play times tables games. There are many free Apps available to download and enjoy
- Play mental maths games including counting in different amounts, forwards and backwards.
- Encourage opportunities for telling the time.
- Encourage opportunities for counting coins and money e.g. finding amounts or calculating change when shopping.
- Look for numbers on street signs, car registrations and anywhere else.
- Look for examples of 2D and 3D shapes around the home.
- Identify, weigh or measure quantities and amounts in the kitchen or in recipes.
- Play games involving numbers or logic, such as dominoes, card games, draughts or chess.



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## **How to Help Your Child with Reading at KS2**

- Try to listen to your child read regularly. 15-20 minutes four times a week is much better than longer sessions once a week.
- Find a quiet place to share books where you can be comfortable.
- Talk about the book.
- Ask questions which encourage your child to give their own opinions for example, Do you agree with this/the author's opinion? How do you feel about this topic? Why? What do you think about/is your opinion of...? Can you support your view with evidence from the text?
- Encourage your child to read a range of texts such as newspapers, comics, poetry, non-fiction, etc. Share a book with your child. This may involve you reading to them or reading and talking together about the book.
- Play word games.
- Encourage children to read a series of books from a favourite author or books on topics of interests especially to keep reluctant readers interested and reading.



# How to Help Your Child

## How to Help Your Child with Writing at KS2

- Be a writing model and encourage your child to write both alongside you and with you. Ask your child help you with letters, lists or forms. This helps your child to see first hand that writing is important to adults and truly useful throughout everyday life.
- Ensure there are a range of real opportunities for your child to write, such as letters, shopping lists, posters or invitations.
- Have a wide selection of good quality writing materials readily available. Include a range of things to write on as well to write with.
- Talk to your child about his or her writing and read it through together – don't dwell on any mistakes, rather focus on the content of the writing.
- Praise your child positively and say something good about their writing. Is it accurate? Descriptive? Thoughtful? Interesting? Does it say something? Comments such as "I like the way you have..." is more effective than "You're clever!"
- Encourage them to edit their work checking for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors.
- Use games and puzzles, such as crosswords, word games, anagrams, etc.

## How to Help Your Child with Maths at KS2

- Weighing, measuring capacity and timing when cooking. Converting a recipe for 4 people to one for 6 people.
- Being involved with measuring and calculating how much curtain fabric is needed, how much wood for shelves, how many wall or floor tiles are needed, how much carpet etc.
- Talking about time, e.g. How long is it until lunch time? The journey takes 2½ hours, when will we arrive? We need to be there at 2.00 pm, when do we need to leave home? Many children will still need practice with reading clock times, particularly minutes past and minutes to the hour.
- Handling amounts of money when shopping, working out total costs, working out change, checking receipts. Working out prices of sale items, e.g. 20% off. Managing pocket money and saving for things.
- Working out distances and directions from maps.
- Discussing and comparing house prices from newspaper house sales pages.
- Working out how much petrol will be used on a journey, working out average speed for a journey, costing journeys or holidays etc.



# How to Help Your Child

## **Play activities/games:**

- Any games involving calculating scores, e.g. scrabble, quoits, darts, bowling.
- Beat the calculator. In pairs, one with a calculator, one without, each works out the answer to a calculation aiming for the one without the calculator to say the answer first.
- Games involving strategic thinking/logic, e.g. draughts, chess.
- Specialised computer games designed for using and developing maths.

## **Mental activities:**

- Practising and developing knowledge of addition and subtraction facts within 20 (7+8, 13-5 etc.) and multiplication and division facts to 10 x 10 (6x7, 35/5 etc.) Make it into a game if possible, e.g. have a set of cards numbered 1-10, pick a number such as 4, say 4 times the number on the card as each is turned over, keep all the cards you get right. Beat the calculator as above. On a journey, adult passenger times response, try to beat your own time.
- Ask 'progressive' calculations, e.g.  $7 + 6$ ,  $17 + 6$ ,  $27 + 6$ ,  $47 + 6$ ,  $147 + 6$ ;  $5 \times 2$ ,  $50 \times 2$ ,  $500 \times 2$ ,  $500 \times 20$ .
- Working out 2-digit additions and subtractions, multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by 1 digit numbers mentally. Talk about how to make it easier, e.g. for  $28 + 15$ , call it 30 add 13 and that's easy; for  $16 \times 4$ , double 16, then double 32.
- Open- ended activities, e.g. The answer is 25, what is the question? How can you use combinations of 3 and 6 to make different numbers? (Use each number as many times as you like with addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.)