

English Handy Hints

Reading

Here are some handy hints to help your child with their reading.

- Find 10-20 minutes to read with your child every day.
- Talk about what you have read with your child.
- Use the reading lists given out at parents evening to help your child select appropriate books.
- Read as widely as possible- read a range of different types of text. E.g. magazines, fiction, non-fiction, poetry books, signs, instructions etc



Inference and Deduction

- Ask questions where children have to recall and retrieve information from the text.
- Ask children more challenging questions for example why does the author use this particular word? Why have they organised the text in this way?
- Ask children to re-tell stories they have read using appropriate language.



Text Structure and Organisation

- What features have been used to help structure the text? Why has the text been organised this way.
- Children can design and create their own books using different organisational features e.g. contents page, bullet points etc.

Writers' use of Language

- Ask questions such as why does the author choose these particular words or phrases.
- Use example questions from the list to stretch your child and encourage them to think more about they have read.
- When reading look for sentences that include connectives (and, but, because, after, meanwhile)
- Challenge children to use who, when, where in the middle of a sentence. Find these types of sentences in reading books.
- When reading look for sentences that include similes, metaphors and personification.



Writing

Here are some handy hints to help your child with their writing.

Composition and effect

- Encourage children to plan the work in paragraphs and encourage them to refer to their plan when writing.
- Look at a range of non-fiction texts and how they are structured. Use these as good examples.
- When doing any written homework, ask your child to check it focussing on paragraphs and structures.



Text Structure and Organisation



- Create instructions and diaries for imaginative characters.
- Write about imaginary characters.
- Develop characters that have different personalities and characteristics- create mind maps for these characters.
 - Use speaking and listening activities- have a conversation with your child going into role using imaginary characters.
- Write stories, poems, recipes, instruction for any purpose - encourage children to use the good structure and paragraphs and remember the steps to success discussed in class time.
- When doing any written homework, ask children to plan out what they are going to write first. Encourage the children to use this plan when they are writing and continue to refer back to it.

Sentence Structure and Punctuation

- Write as many different ways of starting one simple sentence.
- Write silly sentences including connectives.
- Discuss punctuation with your child; get them to read their work to find out where punctuation should go.
- Discuss word types for example nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and how they should be used in sentences.
- Always encourage children to use exciting words.
- Encourage your child to use a Thesaurus to look up more exciting words for their writing.

