



Literacy A Guide for Parents



Work with the school

Your child's teachers want the same as you – for your child to be happy and successful.

1. Find out about parents evenings and other events at school
2. Contact the school if you are concerned about anything at all
3. Respond when teachers are contacting you
4. Celebrate your child's successes at home
5. Talk with your child about school: What did they do and learn today? What about homework?

Support with homework

Learning continues at home. Parents have an important role to play in ensuring that learning does not stop when children leave the school building.

1. Ensure there is a suitable place for study at home – quiet, no distractions
2. Use ShowMyHomework to support and check
3. Encourage your child to settle down to homework every day and check and reward progress
4. Talk to your child about homework; ask questions, find out what s/he enjoys doing, what s/he finds difficult.
5. Use the Literacy Mats on the school website and MLE – both the generic and the subject specific versions

Literacy Mats

The KES Literacy Mats are on the pupil pages of the MLE:

<https://kessheffieldsch.sharepoint.com/learning/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Parents can also access them via school website:

<http://kes.sheffield.sch.uk/>

Click on: Documents → choose: KS3 Curriculum

Games to go with Literacy Mats: <https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-7>

Oral Literacy

Did you know?

- *Research shows that the average length of a student's contribution to a class discussion is 4 words.*
- *The average length of an utterance of a 12-16 year old is 2 words.*

Speaking is as important Writing. Parents can help:

1. Make time to talk with your child as much as possible.
2. Ask questions and encourage full and detailed replies – any topics: school and friends, home life and family, what they like, read, watch, etc
3. Question time: get your child to ask you the same question in different ways, e.g. "What shall we go and see at the cinema?", open, "Can we go to the cinema?", closed, "It would be fun to go to the cinema wouldn't it?" rhetorical
4. You're joking! Share jokes and funny stories with your child.
5. Story telling – write a novel together: they talk, you write – be creative together
6. Play together – even teenagers still like to spend time together with their parents:
<http://www.onestopenglish.com/teenagers/skills/games/>

Reading



Did you know?

- *Less than half of 8 to 16 years olds have read a book in the last month.*
- *22% of children report that no one at home encourages them to read.*

Children who enjoy reading are 5 times more likely to be 'above average' in their Reading Assessment levels. There is not enough time in school for children to read as much as is needed for them to really benefit in their literacy development.

This is how parents can help:

1. Encourage your child to read to you – from texts they use in their lessons, when doing homework etc
2. Encourage your child to read for pleasure: refer them to the school library, take them to the local library, buy books that you know they will enjoy ...
Librarians can recommend, and there are many websites to help you choose, e.g:
<http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/>
3. Encourage your child to read online:
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/reading-skills-practice>
4. Develop reading skills through graded readers
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/graded-reading>
5. Set an example, be a role model: ensure your child sees you reading
6. Read together

Writing

Most children enjoy writing if there is a purpose to it, and especially if they can use digital media for it.

There are a number of really good websites where children can develop their writing skills and get immediate feedback:

- <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing-skills-practice>
- <https://www.funbrain.com/games>
- <https://sites.google.com/site/jmw12345jmw/games-2>

Vocabulary

The more children speak, listen and read the wider their vocabulary will become.

The wider the vocabulary the better they will speak, listen, read and write.

Parents can help:

1. Spend time with your child, talking, listening, reading together (see above).
2. Encourage your child to go online to play vocabulary games:
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/grammar-vocabulary/vocabulary-exercises>
<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/games>
<http://www.manythings.org/vocabulary/>
<http://pbskids.org/wordgirl/games/>
https://www.spellzone.com/word_lists/vocabulary_lists.cfm



Spelling

The more children read the better their spelling will develop.

Parents can also support at home:

1. Set spelling targets – e.g. 3 words per week, and practice them every day
Suitable word lists can be found on:
<http://www.beatingdyslexia.com/spelling-word-lists.html>
<http://www.bigqkids.com/SpellingVocabulary/Lessons/wordlistFinder.shtml>
2. This website also includes very useful advice on how parents can help their children with spelling: <http://www.beatingdyslexia.com/spelling-strategies.html>
3. Encourage your child to do spelling games online:
<https://www.spellzone.com/games/index.cfm?wordlist=4514>
4. Many sites suggest activities and worksheets for parents to work with their child:
<https://www.abcteach.com/directory/subjects-language-arts-spelling-1953-2-1>