



St Helen's Catholic Infant School



What can you do at home?



Mathematics

Take every opportunity to count. Look at and touch what you are counting , e.g. carrots into a bag at the supermarket.

- Talk about numbers and solve problems involving counting - There are four forks on the table and only three knives. How many more knives do we need?
- Look for shapes in the environment - square windows, circular wheels...
- Sort socks or shoes into pairs.
- Compare quantities using the language more than and less than - Who has more milk in their cup? Is your cup empty, full or half-full?
- Say or sing number rhymes that involve adding and subtracting.
- Describe position – Where are your shoes? - on top of, underneath, behind the chair etc.
- Sort the shopping – things to go in the fridge, tinned food, packets etc., clothes into piles according to whom they belong to.
- Make number fun! Look for numbers in the environment.



Literacy - Communication and Language, Writing and Reading.

- Talk with your child at every opportunity and listen to what he/she has to say.
- Be a good role model and speak clearly using the correct word when naming things. (horse and doggy have to be 'unlearned' at some time in the future)
- Sing and say nursery rhymes and simple songs, enjoying the use of a variety of words and sounds. Change and adapt these songs and rhymes to make them more personal to you and your child. Make up words that rhyme or that just sound like fun.
- Encourage active listening by giving simple instructions for your child to follow, increasing the complexity as they develop.
- Encourage your child to manipulate small objects and tools in order to strengthen his/her fingers so that using a pencil will be easier when he/she

reaches that stage. Playdough and pegs are really good for this purpose.

Reading Strategies for Home

- Phonics - if they can sound the word out using the phonics they know then encourage this as the first strategy
- Use the picture as a clue (this is not cheating!)
- Use picture clues along with the initial letter in the word
- Predict what the word could be from the context it is in.
- I read to you, you read to me
- Point out words in the environment.
- Let your child see you reading and read to your child every day, preferably in a position where he/she can see the text and pictures. Hopefully, your child will then develop a natural interest in books and print.
- Read through, and answer, the focus questions in your child's reading diary.

REMEMBER -A little reading goes a long way!



Useful Websites

You Tube – Mr Thorne does Phonics

Alphablocks

Phonics Play

ICT games

CBeebies