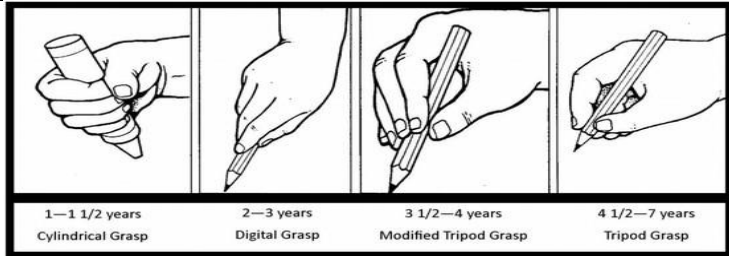


## Helping Your Child at Home – Reception



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is **vital** to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading	
Skill	How could I help my child?
Use 'sounding out' to read unfamiliar words	Children will begin to recognise some words by sight, such as 'the' and 'and' – Use sounding out if the word is not recognised. Start by sounding out the first letter as this may be enough to 'unlock' the word.
Identify words that rhyme	Many songs and poems contain rhyming words. Draw your child's attention to words that rhyme.
Show understanding of what they have read and talk to others about it	Read regularly at home and spend time chatting about the books you read. Encourage your child to tell you what the book was about, or if they liked a particular bit.
Make predictions about what they think will happen in a story	Pause in your reading to talk briefly about what might come up. "What do you think will happen on the next page?"

Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?
Use the correct pencil grip	 <p>Encourage lots of writing and drawing at home to develop their coordination. The pictures here show progression, some children may need guidance to use finger and thumb to guide the pencil.</p>
Write their own name	Practice makes perfect here – an important skill and vital to practise at home.
Form letters correctly	Once again, practice makes perfect. It is really important to introduce correct formation early so that unhelpful habits do not develop.
Use a capital letter to start a sentence and a full stop to end it	Encourage children to label things so that writing has a purpose. Labelling a box of 'My toys' for example, is an opportunity to practise starting with a capital letter. Writing thank you letters e.g. 'Thank you for my gift.' is another great time to write with a purpose and practise letter formation.

Communication skills are key to development in all other areas. Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and help them be clear about whether they are talking about events that have already happened or are about to happen. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year One



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is **vital** to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
Join in with predictable phrases	If sharing a book with a repeated phrase, encourage your child to join in; “Fe Fi Fo Fum!”	Use capital letters to start sentences, peoples’ names and the word ‘I’	While you are completing homework, remind children of these capital letter rules. Encourage them to check back over their work.
Re-read if reading does not make sense	Children should expect to get meaning from what they read. Ask your child to talk about what they have just read. If they cannot explain or seem to not understand a section, encourage them to read over it again.	Form capital letters, lower case letters and digits correctly. Letters must end in the right place to enable teachers to introduce joining	Practice makes perfect! Readable handwriting is so important and year one is the time to get this in place.
Pay attention to punctuation when reading	Encourage children to pause on a full stop and raise voice for a question. You could demonstrate this and then let your child re-read with expression.	Write short stories or sections of information	Celebrate your child’s enthusiasm for writing and give them plenty of opportunities to write. Make sure your child has paper and pencils available to them so that they can write when they want to, with gentle reminders about letter formation and correct punctuation.
Talk about what characters are like and how they know	Ask your child to answer a question in role as a character from their book, “What do you think Biff might say to that?”. Talk about their answers and link it to the book. “I think he’ll be excited too – it says in the book that he loves Go-karts!”		

Communication skills are key to development in all other areas. Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening. It is tempting to finish children’s sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year Two



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is **vital** to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
Comment on the plot, characters and setting of a story	Give your child time to speak at some length about what they have read as this will give them the opportunity to practise their communication skills and explore the story.	Use detail and description in writing	If children add detail to their descriptions when they speak, they are more likely to add this to their writing. Encourage use of precise vocabulary, e.g. 'delicious' rather than 'good'.
Use the contents (at the front) and index (at the back) of a book to find information	Children's home reading books often contain these features.	Use present tense and past tense confidently	Correct your child if they make mistakes in their use of tense and support them to repeat their sentence correctly. For example, if they tell you, "I 'writ' a story today!" please correct to 'wrote'.
Read aloud with expression: Pause on full stops and commas and raising voice for questions or exclamations	Hear your child read regularly. I can be helpful to encourage them to re-read sections, the first to decode and second for meaning.	Begin to join handwriting	Letter formation must be correct for joining to be effective. Help your child by showing them how to write letters they are forming incorrectly. Particularly tricky letters when we begin to join tend to be 'a' (the shape of which also begins the letter d and g) and 'n' and 'm' which many children start on the bottom line instead of at the top of the letter
Read ahead to help with fluency	If your child struggles to keep their place on a page, consider using a bookmark above rather than below the line they are reading. This can allow your child to glance down to the following line in a section of text and aid fluency.		

Communication skills are key to development in all other areas. Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year two should be able to hold the attention of the person they speak to by including interesting details in what they say, for example when telling somebody about a day out.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year Three



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is vital to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
To change their voice when reading inside inverted commas (speech marks)	Encourage your child to read and reread to put expression into speech.	Extend sentences by using conjunctions	Ensure that children use the following words in order to add information to their sentences: when, so, before, after, while and because. They need to spell these words correctly too.
Comment on characters' thoughts, feelings and motives from their actions	Talk about the characters in a book and ask your child which part of a story gives information about a character's thoughts, feelings or motives. Encourage them to flick back in their story to the section they are referring to.	Use joined handwriting that is clear to read	Have high expectations of your child's writing when they write at home. Ensure they are joining consistently as this will help them to quite more quickly as their skill develops.
Comment on the author's use of particular words	Draw your child's attention to words that are particularly interesting and encourage discussion of them.	Organise writing clearly, grouping sentences into paragraphs	Children may wish to write extended pieces at home, which should be celebrated, but structured spoken English can also help with this area. By thinking about the order children will say something, they naturally group ideas together. Help your child by expecting them to explain themselves clearly, rather than jumping from topic to topic or waiting for an adult to fill in the blanks.

Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year three should be able to communicate in an organised and logical way. They should change the way they speak to suit the person listening.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year Four



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is vital to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
To re-explain a text	Keep your child's focus by asking them to think of 5 main points from the book that they could tell you.	Use nouns and pronouns appropriately	Children should be encouraged to read back over their sentences to make sure that is clear WHO they are talking about. They may need to use a pronoun (e.g. he, she, it, they) to remind the reader who they are referring to, without repeating the character's name.
Give a personal point of view on a text	Encourage your child to express their opinions and justify them with reference to the text. They might compare what they are reading to another book and tell you which they preferred and why. They might compare characters within a story. Speaking clearly and justifying their ideas is key.	Use adverbs to begin sentences and link paragraphs	Adverbs often tell when, where, why, or under what conditions something happens or happened. They often end in -ly (though not all -ly words are adverbs!) Encourage your child to use these words in their speaking so they have plenty of ideas when they come to write.
Skim and scan for information in a text	As children look for information to help support their ideas they can scan over the pages to find a section they need.	Write clearly and legibly, using a joined style	Encourage your child to take pride in the presentation of their work and take plenty of opportunities to practise their handwriting.

Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year four should be listening effectively and making relevant comments, based on what they have heard. They should know when it is appropriate to use more formal English.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year Five



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is vital to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
Understand that people use bias in persuasive writing	Encourage children to think carefully about the purpose of a piece of writing or advert. Help them to identify that particular words and phrases have been chosen to persuade the reader to buy something.	Show how possible something is by using modal verbs and adverbs	Modal verbs (should, would, could, will, might) and adverbs (such as perhaps and surely) express possibility. Thinking about the use of these in speech will help your child to transfer these skills to their writing.
Use more than one source when carrying out research	During project work, help your child to find a range of information around their topic. By looking through the differences, they are building an understanding of different ways of presenting information.	Use a range of sentence openers	When your child begins a piece of writing, ask them to think about ways they could start their sentences. They will talk about this in school and often need a reminder in order to produce their best writing. Some examples include beginning with: - a verb (to get the reader into the action): 'Dashing quickly across the snowy path, Alex...' -speech (to create a sense of being in the scene): "Help!" cried Alex as he... -adverbial phrase (for description): 'Shimmering gold coins lay before Alex as he...'
Make notes to summarize what they have read	Help your child to identify key words and phrases in their reading. Practise writing short book reviews that give an overview of what has been read.	Use joined handwriting	Practice makes perfect!

Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year five should be listening effectively, making relevant comments and asking questions, based on what they have heard. They should know when it is appropriate to use Standard English.

## Helping Your Child at Home – Year Six



This is a list of **some** of the skills that your child needs to master by the end of their school year. Teachers target these areas (along with many others) in school but home support is **vital** to ensure children make the best possible progress towards these goals. Please help your child to be the best that they can be by practising the skills below as much as possible. Thank you.

Reading		Writing	
Skill	How could I help my child?	Skill	How could I help my child?
Refer to the text to support opinions and predictions	When discussing their reading, ask your child to quote from the text. Ensure they pick a precise section that justifies their point, rather than simply re-reading the page.	Use paragraphs to signal changes in time, scene, action, mood or person	Encourage planning before writing begins. A story plan can help children organise their thoughts around specific point, such as changing scene or introducing details about a new character.
Skim and scan a text and use note-taking effectively	When reading online, encourage your child to take notes to help them summarize what they have read. They will need to skim through the information in order to get a sense of whether the website will be useful to them.	Use expanded noun phrases (a group of words acting like a name of something)	Building in description helps writers pack information into a sentence. For example, in the sentence, 'The noisy group sitting behind me in the cinema were a real distraction.' The people are referred to as 'the noisy group sitting behind me in the cinema' instead of just 'the people'. Encourage your child to add detail to their writing by building in descriptions like this.
Distinguish between fact and opinion	Discuss the difference between fact and opinion and encourage children to look for these, particularly in advertisements	Use layout matched to the type of writing they are doing	If your child is about to write, ask them what they would expect their finished piece to look like. Would it have a title? A diagram? Subheadings? Paragraphs? Help them to consider how best to set out their writing before they begin.

Children need to understand that it is important they are using language effectively. Please give your child opportunities to speak clearly and use full sentences that give enough information to the person listening, including being precise in the vocabulary they choose. It is tempting to finish children's sentences for them, or respond to short utterances because you know what it is they want but their social skills will develop more if you expect them to be clear communicators. Children in year six should be listening effectively, making relevant comments and asking questions, respecting the contributions of others. They should know when it is appropriate to use Standard English.