

Ten easy ways to support your Reception child

1

Don't be frightened of phonics! Phonics simply refers to the connecting of sounds in words. Play *I spy* to help your child identify the sounds (not letters!) at the beginning of words. *Robot talk* is also a great way of breaking down words to hear the sounds.

2

Simple board games. Snakes and Ladders, Ludo and Frustration to name but a few! Games which require children to roll a die and move their piece along a board are great for developing accurate counting skills, mathematical language and turn-taking. Remember, learning to lose doesn't come easy so don't always let your child win!

3

Shop signs, street signs and registration plates. Identify familiar letters, sounds and numbers in the signs around you. Use the letters on car registration plates to make up silly sentences, for example: DG54 SRM could be Dogs Get Silly Red Masks.

4

Keep a pot of coins. Encourage your child to play with coins, sorting them, adding them and playing shops. Children will enjoy using them to 'buy' snacks and drinks from you; 'charge' 4p for a biscuit and 3p for a drink!

5

Share stories. Reading to your child is just as valuable as them reading to you. Talk about what might happen at the end of the story, how the characters might be feeling or why they're doing what they do. Share your ideas too!

6

Be crafty! Lay out some newspaper (or take them outside) and let your child get messy with paint, crayons, glue and playdough. Giving them bits of paper and card to cut up will help them develop their dexterity. The finished article is not as important as the skills practised on the way!

7

Play with words. How many words can you think of which rhyme with cat? Red? Sail? Make up nonsense words too, as long as the sounds match! Have fun using alliteration to come up with nicknames for family members: Silly Sally, Funny Freddie, Messy Mummy for example.

8

Sharing. Sharing is two-fold; it helps children develop their social skills and friendships and it is a fundamental part of maths. Ask your child to help cut cake or pizza so that everyone gets an equal share. Or ask them to share out grapes or sweets so that everyone gets the same number.

9

Talk to your child about their day but don't be disheartened if they don't tell you anything! Try asking them to just to recount the best part of the day or one thing they have learnt or done for the first time, then tell them something about your day too.

10

Independence. Developing the confidence to try things and to make mistakes is fundamental to a child's attitude to learning. Quite simply, children who are encouraged to 'have a go' make more successful learners. So let them try things such as doing up a zip, putting on a pair of gloves or laying the table (also great for maths skills). It all helps!