

Literacy is one of the four specific areas of learning and development in the EYFS.

This area of learning

- gives opportunities for your child to share and enjoy rhymes, songs, poetry, stories and non-fiction books
- encourages your child to use the stories they hear in their play
- helps your child to understand what a word is by using names, labels and words in the environment
- encourages your child to ask questions and talk about the characters in books
- helps your child to understand how stories work
- helps your child to develop recognition of letter shapes and words
- gives your child experience of language and writing systems other than English
- helps your child to develop hand-eye co-ordination and pencil control skills
- gives opportunities for your child to tell you about the marks they make, using a finger to make patterns in sand, and write for different purposes and eventually to be able to write their own name, simple words and sentences

## How can you help your child?

- Talk together about your experiences, for example, your child's day, a trip to the zoo.
- Listen to your child talking about their experiences, thoughts and feelings.
- Encourage your child to listen to others.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs together. Move and dance together as you sing rhymes and songs
- Enjoy activities together that develop manipulative skills, for example, cooking, puzzles, sewing.
- Enjoy books together – again and again!
- Bring stories to life with lots of expression and silly voices.
- Play “Spot the words” in the home and in the environment, for example, labels on food packaging, open/closed signs.
- Read together in every day situations, for example, information at bus stops, cooking instructions.
- Visit the library together.
- Talk about the pictures, characters, events in books.
- Ask your child to tell you what might happen next in a story or their favourite part of the story.
- Write together, for example, shopping lists, greetings cards.
- Let your child see you reading and writing.

## Useful links

### **Bookstart** [www.bookstart.org.uk](http://www.bookstart.org.uk)

Lively, interactive site, well reviewed, full of songs, information and tips for parents about early reading. Includes ideas for favourite books for all ages, plus games from the Bear club.

### **The Communication Trust**

#### [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)

An informative site full of tips and links, including help if you have concerns about your child's communication skills.

### **Talk for meaning** [www.talk4meaning.co.uk](http://www.talk4meaning.co.uk)

A website run by Michael Jones, an independent consultant, with a speech and language therapy and teaching background.

### **Words for Life** [www.wordsforlife.org.uk/](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/)

Full of useful tips and free resources, lively video clips and topical ideas.

### **CBeebies** [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/)

Tips, games and resources from a lively site.

# The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## Areas of Learning and Development



## Literacy