

From Scribbles to writing



Give your child toys where they need to use their fingers and thumbs – playdough, play scissors, toy tea sets, jigsaws, sand.



Create opportunities for free painting on large sheets of paper
Keep crayons and paper with general toys



Encourage children to make 'writing' part of play – lists, names, notices



Trace over numbers and shapes with your child's hand on top of yours.



Write words under your child's drawings for them.



Draw a shape, letter or number on your child's leg or hand and see if they can guess. (This is effective for children who are tactile learners rather than visual or aural learners)



Let your child see you writing.



Play games like Hangman and Scrabble to help spelling and writing.

Let's go to the Library



Library books expose your child to many topics which wouldn't come up in conversation.



It is a wonderful activity the whole family can do and there is something for all ages. It will encourage them when they see other children and families reading and picking books.



Take your child to storytime at your local library.



It is FREE for your child to join Tipperary Libraries.

www.tipperarylibraries.ie or Tel : 0504 21555

* Succeeding in Reading? Dep. Of Education and Science, 2005

Talk, Read, Write.....

Pre-Schoolers



*“Research shows that pre-school children who are exposed to plenty of language (books and conversation) tend to do better at school”**


TIPPERARY
Libraries


CASHELCAMPUS
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Literacy isn't just reading – it includes writing, speaking, listening and all the ways we use language to interact and communicate with each other. In general, those who arrive at school with the following kinds of experiences and understandings are at an advantage.

Sounds and Rhymes



Play sound games like, 'I hear with my little ear, something that goes 'woof'.



Say an alphabet sound, ask the child to find something that starts with that sound- b for ball, balloon.



Sing Rhymes about everyday activities.



Talk about letters you see, starting with letters in their name or names of family members or favourite toys and expand from there.



Talk to your child about family members, photos, TV shows, places you visit.....

Stories and Books and learning to Read

Stories help children to learn to read by matching the words you say to the words on the page



Story time should be a **special time** to cuddle, talk and read with your child. Show your child that you are having **FUN** too and **PRAISE** them for every effort they make.



Be prepared – read the storybook first, you will get more out of it.



Tell your child 'real life' stories you know. They love hearing about themselves as a baby. Tell a story about yourself or a grandparent as a child.



Choose a quiet time and place, with as few distractions as possible. Turn off music, TV etc.



Don't worry if your child looks distracted, it will sink in!



Establish a routine. Try to devote some time everyday to reading. Soon they will look for it at the same time everyday.



Get your child to 'read' a picturebook to you by encouraging them to look at the pictures and tell you what they see and what's going on in the picture.



It is important to use storybooks children like. If they don't like it, don't persist, it will just put them off.



Stories with rhyming, repetition and questions are good and encourage interaction between the child and the reader.



Encourage your child to guess what will happen next, if they are familiar with a book. Ask them to finish bits in their own words



Be ready to read the same book over and over again.



Let your children see you read and they will want to copy you – newspapers, magazines, books, cereal boxes, recipes, shopping lists.



If you have children of varying ages, get the older ones to read, spell and sing to the younger child.



Prepare to be interrupted, don't just read through from start to finish, ask questions (What colour is the fish? It's beautiful) – ask open questions, e.g. what, where and how to help them expand their vocabulary.



Don't force a child to read. If you make reading an everyday part of your life and your child's life, they will read and enjoy books. The key is to create opportunities for books and reading as outlined above. It should be as natural as eating, playing, watching TV

Alphabet and Early Spelling



Buy foam letters or make with cardboard and hide around the house or garden and play 'LETTER TREASUREHUNT'. See what words you can make together at the end of the game. Include their name in the letters and they will enjoy constructing it.



When your child has started to learn to read, follow the text and encourage him or her to point to the words as you go along.



Letters and words they recognise are everywhere, get them to spot the letter 'A' when out shopping for example.