



Year R Home Learning

Approximate Directed Activity Time - approx 40 minutes per day.

During the Autumn Term, as your child is just beginning their time with us at The Mead Infant and Nursery School we would like you to do the following, ideally, every day:

Reading Together - 10 minutes

Name recognition & writing - 10 minutes

Phonics - 10 minutes

Maths - 10 minutes

You will find lots of guidance and ideas for activities that you can do with your child to support their development in these areas below.

If you are experiencing any problems, please email your class teacher.

Jellyfish: jellyfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk

Starfish: starfish@mead.surrey.sch.uk

Turtles: turtles@mead.surrey.sch.uk

Home Learning Reading (10 minutes)

Share a story together. You can read any book that you have at home or can access books on the Rising Stars website using your login details.

Here are some more tips to help you enjoy story time together:

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for your child to focus and to enjoy the story without any other distractions.

- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions. Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!

(Tips taken from <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>)

Practising their name (10 minutes)

Recognising their own name and beginning to write it, is a key skill for children in Reception.

As children in our Reception classes are between 'only just' 4 years old and 5 years old, with a range of different nursery experiences, they will all be at different stages of recognising and writing their names. This is completely normal.

Recognising names:

If your child is still learning to recognise their name when it is written down, these are some ways that you could help them:

- Use a post-it notes or scrap of paper to label your dinner places, plates, snack, pile of clean washing (anything!) .
- Tell your child "this says Mum/Mummy/ Daddy/ Nan etc" and this is "(your child's name)". Can they find the place to sit, their snack, their pile of washing etc?

Writing names:

Most children will still be learning to write either the first letter of their name, or their whole name at this point in Reception. If your child is just beginning to explore writing, just focus on the **first letter** of their name to begin with.

Some fun ways for children to practice writing the first letter of their name, or when they are ready, their whole name:

- Write on a blackboard, wall or paving slab using a brush dipped in water, or their finger.
- Use chalk to write on the patio, pavement or wall outside - getting children to wash it off after also helps develop the muscles needed for writing.
- If you have spare flour (or are brave enough to use shaving foam!) fill a small, flat tray and practice forming letters with their finger.
- Get out the paint and practice painting letters and their name.

Please remember, only the first letter of their name is **CAPITALS**, with the rest in **lowercase** please.

Phonics (10 minutes)

Recap Phase 1 phonics

- At the start of the term, we would like you to recap the Phase 1 phonic activities that your child began at nursery/ pre-school.
- Phase 1 is crucial to your child's phonics development as it develops their listening skills which are needed to be able to sound out and blend words.
- This can be done by sharing stories with rhymes, singing nursery rhymes and focusing on initial sounds by playing games like I-Spy e.g. "I spy with my little eye a word starting with ssssss (saying sound rather than letter name)". There are also a number of interactive resources online that can be used to support Phase 1 learning. We recommend www.phonicsplay.co.uk. Currently, this is free using the log in (username) March20, (password) home. There is a phase 1 section with some games to play.

Introducing Phase 2 sounds:

- We have also begun to introduce some Phase 2 sounds to the children. The sounds sheet with the sounds we have learnt in school are sent out with the 'Coming Up Next Week'.
- You can find daily phonics lessons that follow the sounds we are learning in school here:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuGr6z2H2KNGLy2Tckcy8Kk8u10mXgcmi>

Maths (10-15 minutes)

Sing counting songs together. E.g. Ten Green Bottles, 5 Little Speckled Frogs (lots of these can be found online at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-counting-songs/zn67kmn>)

- Each week we will be focusing on a number, you can use the Numberblocks videos and activities to help support your child practice their early number skills. We have shared the videos below and you can find more information <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/numberblocks-help-your-child-with-maths>
- You can also download a number tracing sheet below and number activity mats which are **optional** but may help you and your child in practising early number skills.