

Ways to help your child in year 1

Reading:

Regularly practise sight reading the high frequency words. Any particular words that cause a problem, write them on post-it notes and stick where you eat your dinner etc so they are often seen.

Read with your child as often as possible, once a day at least. Take it in turns to read a page. You read to your child to model fluency and expression. Talk about punctuation : stop at a full stop, pause at a comma. Encourage them to re-read a sentence to check it makes sense.

Regularly read books more mature books to your child so that they hear a range of vocabulary and narrative. Talk about the words, explain what they mean, try and put them into different sentences. Your child could write WOW words in their reading diary to show their teacher/friends.

Look at different non-fiction texts, noting how they are set out differently from story books. Find books about subjects that your child enjoys and sometimes share these at bed time.

When sharing books, talk about what's happened. Think about why characters do things. Ask "What would you do if you were in the story?" "Why do you think they did that?" Ask "What did you like about that story?" or just tell them what you think!

Talk with your child - about what you see around you, what you did today. Encourage talk - it's how we learn from one another.

Writing:

Encourage your child to write for any purpose - lists of things they like for tea, lists of things they would like to do at the weekend etc.

Write letters to the tooth fairy, or write to a family member and ask them to write back!

Get them to write their friends' birthday cards and Christmas cards and their own thank you letters!

When writing, check your child is holding the pencil/pen in a firm grip between fingers and thumb and that they are sitting with good posture.

Praise them for any efforts!

Numeracy:

Play lots of games

Dice games - Snakes & Ladders; Shut the Box - so that your child gets used to seeing the numbers on the dice and begins to recognise them without having to count them.

Card games: take out Jacks, Queens & Kings:

- Higher Higher! Each player takes 2 cards - add them together. Highest total wins a counter!
- Target 9 or 11 (or whatever): Each player gets 2 cards, adds them together, player closest to Target number wins!
- Lower Lower! Each player takes 2 cards - take the smallest number away from the highest. Smallest answer wins! (i.e. I pick a 9 and a 7. $9-7$ is 2)

Time: point out the clock to your child and tell them when it's o'clock so that they get used to time. Tell them we are having tea, our bath etc at 6 o'clock. Ask them to tell you when it is time.

Money: ask children to sort your coins out for you and help them to recognise each coin.

Shapes: point out different shapes around as you are out and about. What's the most interesting shape you can find?