

## Ideas for writing

- Shopping lists
- Writing captions for pictures
- Diaries
- Post cards
- Recipes
- Stories
- Notes and messages
- Postcards

## Fine Motor skills

- Threading
- Playdough
- Scrunching paper
- Dancing—musical movement
- Running, hopping, skipping
- climbing etc...



## Speaking and Listening

- **Listen at home** – switch off the TV/computer/phone and listen to the sounds, both inside and outside the home. Can your child tell you what sounds they can hear?
- **Play-a-tune and follow me!** Make some simple shakers, drums and beaters, then play a simple tune and ask your child to copy. Have fun! You could even use pots and pans.
- **Songs and rhymes** – sing a variety of rhymes in different voices, e.g. squeaky, happy, quiet, loud.
- **Show that you are interested in what they are talking about** – look at your child, smile, nod your head, ask a question or make a response to show that you really have been listening.
- Teaching your child new words for example:  
“Wow that’s a **big** dog!”  
“Wow that’s an **enormous** dog!”  
“Wow that’s a **massive** dog!”

How to support  
your child's Early  
English Skills

John Shelton  
Primary School

Reception Class  
2025 - 2026

## ▶ Fun formation ideas

- Sticks in mud
- Using finger to write on each others backs. Can you guess the letter?
- Steam on mirrors
- Water and brushes to paint on floor or walls (outdoors!)
- Rainbow letters: using different coloured pens, crayons, chalks and felt tips
- Shaving foam, glitter, sand or flour in a flat tray
- Squirting water from old washing up bottles on the floor (outside!)
- Large chalk for mark making on the ground

## ▶ Fun games

- Using objects around the home play I-spy Fred talk games. E.g.
  - 'I spy a p-e-g – peg.'
  - 'Where's your other s-o-ck – sock?'
  - 'Simon says – touch your ch-i-n.'
- Find me something beginning with... h
- Place sound/word cards around the garden, find me ...s or mat
- As above game spell 'cat' run to each sound to collect the letters  
c-a-t then place them together to check.
- Play snap or pairs with letter cards or words, these are easy to make!
- Pass the letter or word around—put letters/ words in a bag , play music and when it stops pull a card out the bag and say the sound or read the word.

## ▶ Reading and Story ideas

- Making up your own stories together.
- Make puppets or masks to re-tell or act out a story. This can be a familiar story or a made up story.
- Describe and talk about characters from stories.
- Cover up words; can they guess the missing word?
- Cover up a character; can you guess who I'm describing?
- Ask questions to extend the children's thinking about the story, 'What would happen if...?', 'Why do you think...?'
- Make up a different ending to a story.
- Using a collection of objects and animals to make up a story.
- Talk about the cover and title. What do they think the book is about?

Make reading fun and not a chore!!!!