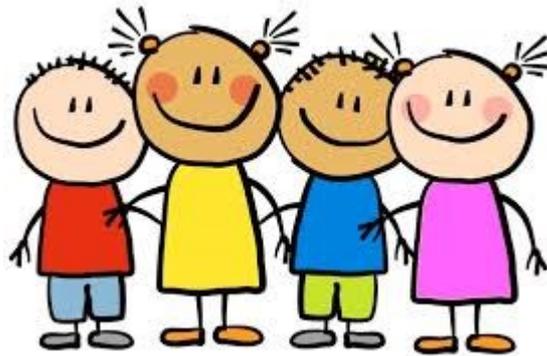


Welcome to Reception

At Thomas A 'Becket Infant School



**Helping your
child in the
Early Years**



Speaking and Listening



Top tips for helping your child with speaking and listening

Here are ideas for games and activities you can do with your child to develop their speaking and listening skills. Good speaking and listening skills will help your child do well at school as well as at home!

- Join in pretend play with your child. Play alongside them, let them take the lead. Listen and talk about what they are saying and doing rather than asking lots of questions.
- Give longer instructions for them to follow.
- Play around with words and sounds, e.g think of words that begin with the same sound.
- Get your child to think of words that belong to the same category, for example as many different animals you can think of.
- Make up a story together-think of a character, where does he live, where does he go today, what does he do, are there any mishaps, and what happens at the end?
- Play board games with your child that involve taking turns helps them to listen.
- Introduce new words and phrases to help them continue learning. Think of lots of different words that mean a similar thing-e.g. words that mean big.
- Play around with rhyme e.g. 'cat, fat, hat splat....any more? Its an important skill for reading.
- Children may need time to think before responding to questions and instructions.





Sharing Books and reading



Top tips for helping your child develop reading skills. Remember reading is all about a love of all different types of books, being read to is just as important as reading! The book your child chooses at school is a shared book so enjoy it together.

- Read to your child.....lots
- Join the library
- Make up stories, retell stories!
- Share comics/magazines/newspapers
- Make books
- Listen to your child read
- Role play-act out a story, use puppets!
- Make sure your child sees you reading books!
- Use expression when you read to your child
- Pick out sounds they know in words
- Write in your child's reading diary



Phonics/letter sounds



top tips for helping your child develop phonic skills

- Practise writing your name with/pencils/felt tips/chalks/ make letters or words out of playdough or plasticine
- Trace over their name
- Find words that rhyme in books
- Rainbow letters (writing the letter with different colours)
- Puzzles and phonic games
- Clapping out name/words
- Go on a sound (phoneme) walk, play I spy.
- Painting using different brushes or finger painting

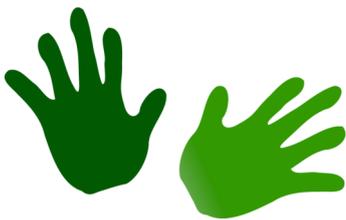


Writing



Top tips for helping your child to become a writer.

- Practise writing your name with/pencils/felt tips/chalks/playdough letters
- Trace over your name
- Colouring and cutting
- Writing for a purpose, make a shopping list
- Making a class register
- Draw around stencils



Fine Motor skills



Top tips for supporting your child's fine motor control and strengthening pencil grip

- Pegs and peg boards
- Making hedgehogs out of plasticine and playdough (pinch out the spikes)
- Threading (beads/pasta necklaces....)
- Using Lego/Duplo to make walls/bridges/houses/cars.....
- Tracing
- Chalking
- Painting
- Cutting
- Putting pegs on a washing line
- Rolling plasticine/playdough into sausages then roll up to make a spiral or a snail!





Maths all around us



Counting and Numbers

Being able to count is an important skill, but children need to be able to count accurately. Help your child to count by practising, e.g. counting the food on their plate, how many apples are in the fruit bowl. Start with objects up to 5 then onto 10. Encourage your child to point and touch each object as they count

Money

Look at the prices of things with your child, talk about more and less. Let your child play with money, help them to recognise coins by setting up a shop and labelling different objects. Can they work out how much change they would get if they had 10p to spend? How many pennies make up 2p 5p 10p?



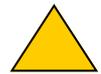
Shapes



Shapes are all around us! Talk to your child about the different shapes they can see. Square, circle, triangle and rectangle. What do they look like? How can you describe them? How many corners do they have? How many sides? What shape is a window? A door? Talk about 3 dimensional shapes-cube, cuboid, sphere and cylinder? How many faces/edges/corners do they have?



Measuring



Measure things around your home, your living room, the dog! Let your child measure you and other people. Measuring is also about weight and capacity, using cooking equipment, measuring jugs, balances, scales, digital scales will introduce the idea.

Playing games is fun!

There are lots of different types of games that you can play at home which help children with simple basic mathematical concepts.....

Play snakes and ladders, dominoes and other games that depend on counting, calculation and scoring. This will also help your child with counting each space on a playing board and counting spots on a dice. You could even make up your own games, try sorting and matching games. Snap and bingo are great for number recognition!



Helping your child settle into Reception



There are lots of things you can do to help your child settle in to school life, here are some top tips!

- Make sure your child has a drinks bottle with water only (named)
- Wellies for our outside learning environment and Forest School
- A full P.E kit named and at school at all times
- A bookbag for reading and library books
- Please try to be on time in the morning and at pick up time to avoid any anxiety your child may feel
- Please name everything!
- Encourage independent dressing and undressing including coats, tights and socks!
- Encourage your child to wash their hands after going to the toilet and flushing.
- Encourage your child to come into school by themselves and be independent as soon as possible
- Please go once you have said goodbye so your child (we know how hard that is, but be assured your child will settle if they are upset)

