

Writing



If children are going to be able to write by themselves, at an early age, they need to be able to hear the sounds in words and write the letters for those sounds. At school they will be taught to do this. When they are ready, they will bring home words with which to practice this new writing skill. These words are for you to call out. They have to listen for the sounds in the words and write down the letters in their 'Homework Writing Book'. This prepares them for independent writing.



Later on the children will bring home a list of spellings. Your help in calling these words out, will help your child to develop accurate spelling.

All this sounds a great amount of hard work.



It is not really because it goes in stages and spread over a good period of time. A little most days is helpful. Often children are very tired after school and may not be receptive to more activities. It is better to leave it than push too hard. The learning is meant to be done in a relaxed and playful approach. The whole family can join in some letter and sound games.

There is no doubt that effort on your part, at this stage, is well worth it. An early start to reading and writing is invaluable to your child.

STANHOPE BARRINGTON EARLY YEARS UNIT

Developed by

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Stanhope Barrington Early Years Unit

Jolly Phonics



Information for Parents

A Guide to Reading

Learning to read and write fluently is vital, if children are going to get maximum value from their education and fulfil their true potential. It is important that it is mastered as soon as possible, for without this ability, it is hard for children to cope with Maths, Science and other subjects.

That is why at Stanhope Early Years Unit we believe that a highly structured approach to teaching phonics is the most effective method for developing early reading skills. That means your child will be taught all the sounds that letters make and how to blend them to read unknown words.



Jolly Phonics

For each of the 42 letter sounds, there is an action for the children to do.



This helps them to remember the letter sounds and makes it an enjoyable activity. Your support at this stage is invaluable. If you join in with them, you can help your child become really fluent at saying the sounds when he/she sees the letters.

As the letters are taught, they are stuck into a 'Sound Book', which is brought home regularly. If you could go through the book, your child will find it easier to remember the sounds.

Knowing the letter sounds well, is not enough. The children need to be able to blend them. In other words they must be able to run the letter sounds together in such a way that they make the word. It is a technique that can be taught. If you ask your child to say the first sound loudly and quickly whisper the rest, it is easier for them (for example, d-o-g, c-a-t). Some children do this straight away and others take longer. It comes to them all with practice and patience.

Word Boxes

To give the children practice blending words, they will bring home a 'Word Book'. Please will you listen to them blending the sounds to read the words and write a comment if you like.

Once the children are reasonably fluent at blending, they will bring home their reading books.



Reading

Please will you listen to you child read regularly. When they come to words that they do not know, get them to try blending the sounds and see if they can work the word out for themselves. Some words are so irregular that it is impossible and these you have to tell them. Children who have a good memory for words, will read easily. The children who found it difficult to remember the sounds, will also be slower at reading. With love and encouragement most children can get over their problems and read very satisfactorily.