

## Literacy Top Tips

### Reading

- ❖ **Listen and sing songs and rhymes**
  - Create rhyming strings e.g. cat, hat, mat – have fun and make up nonsense words e.g. wat
  - Play with the words and make up nonsense rhymes
- ❖ **Foster a love of reading**
  - Have fun sharing and reading books together – children often love the use of different voices for the characters
  - Talk about the characters, what's happened in the story or why you like it
  - Be a good role model and read in front of your child
  - Visit the library
- ❖ **Read everywhere you go and talk about letters and sounds**
  - Model how you read all the time
  - Draw attention to letter and sounds and get your child to spot them everywhere e.g. in books, on signs, on labels, on car registration plates
  - Play eye-spy using the sound the word starts with
  - Send your child on a sound or word hunt around the house or garden
- ❖ **Remember they can read anything!**

E.g. fiction/non-fiction books, magazines, recipes, instructions, labels, signs, cards
- ❖ **Sound talk words to develop their blending for reading skills**
  - E.g. it's time for b-e-d, put it in the b-i-n

### Writing

- ❖ **Develop gross motor movement (whole body, or limbs)**
  - E.g. balancing activities, cycling, climbing, building with large construction, dancing, ball games and activities – rolling, throwing, catching, kicking
  - Making large movements in the air with their arms, hands and shoulders. E.g. with ribbons or through action songs
  - Squiggle while you wiggle - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptFAL-eSvxU>
- ❖ **Develop hand/eye coordination & fine motor skills**
  - E.g. Threading beads or pasta on wool or string, sewing & weaving activities, pegboards, chopping and peeling, small construction toys
  - Dough disco - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K-CQrjI0uY>
- ❖ **Develop the pincer grip for writing**
  - E.g. using tweezers – picking up & sorting buttons, sequins or small beads
  - Encourage them to hold the pencil between the Tommy Thumb and Peter Pointer with the pencil resting on Toby Tall. Use “pinch and flip”
- ❖ **Provide them with lots of opportunities to mark make and use tools**
  - E.g. Drawing, painting, colouring, collaging, cutting
  - Use paintbrushes, pencils, pens, chinks, spatulas, cotton buds, combs, forks and knives
- ❖ **Get your child to practise writing their name as often as they can**
  - E.g. On their pictures, in birthday and Christmas cards, in a range of mediums – sand, flour, shaving foam or with water on the patio
- ❖ **Always encourage the correct letter formation especially the anti-clockwise movement in curly caterpillar letters (c, a, d, e, g, o, q, f)**