DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helping your child at home

Simple ideas for maths, reading and writing

Nursery

Talk every day

Talking with your child is the most important thing you can do. Every chat builds the words they will later read and write.

Chat as you go
Talk about what you're doing: "I'm washing the red cup."

Add a little more
If they say "Car!", reply "Yes, a big blue car!"

Sing and rhyme
Share songs and nursery rhymes every day.

Maths

Count everyday things
Count stairs, buttons and toys. Touch each one as you count.

Spot numbers
Look for numbers on doors, buses and clocks. "That's a 3!"

Big and small
Compare shoes, teddies and cups: which is bigger? Which is smaller?

Make patterns
Line up toys or pasta in patterns: red, blue, red, blue…

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON IN NURSERY

COUNTING
Say numbers in order, past 5 and beyond

ONE EACH
Say one number for each thing they count, up to 5

SEEING AMOUNTS
Know how many there are in small groups (up to 3)

COMPARING
Talk about more, fewer and the same

SHAPES
Talk about and name shapes they see

PATTERNS
Notice, copy and continue simple patterns

TALK LIKE A MATHEMATICIAN – ENCOURAGE FULL SENTENCES

"There are 3 cars."

"This tower is taller than that tower."

KEY MATHS WORDS TO USE AT HOME

count · number · how many? · more · fewer · the same · big · small · tall · short · circle · square · triangle · pattern

Little and often – just 10 minutes a day makes a real difference.

Reading

Share a book every day

A bedtime story is perfect. Snuggle up and enjoy it together.

Talk about the pictures

You don't have to read every word. Point, chat and wonder together.

Read it again… and again

Repeating favourite books helps children learn new words and join in.

Use your home language

Sharing stories in any language builds a strong foundation for reading.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

"What can you see in this picture?"

"What do you think will happen next?"

"How do you think the bear feels?"

Early writing

Big movements first

Painting, chalk on paving and waving ribbons build strong arms and shoulders.

Strong little fingers

Playdough, threading beads and pegs help get fingers ready to hold a pencil.

Every mark counts

Ask "Tell me about your drawing." Their marks and scribbles have meaning.

Spot their name

Point out the letters of their name on labels, cards and pegs.

PLAY WITH SOUNDS

Clap the beats in names: Ja-mal (2 claps), A-me-li-a (4 claps).

Play I spy with sounds: "I spy something that starts with /b/."

Find rhyming words: cat, hat, mat… what else?

More ideas to try at home

Young children learn best through play. Pick one or two ideas a week – there's no need for worksheets.

MATHS **Set the table**
One plate for each person, one cup for each person. Count them together.

MATHS **Shape hunt**
Find circles, squares and triangles at home or in the park.

MATHS **Sort the socks**
Match pairs and sort by colour or size while doing the washing.

MATHS **Number songs**
Sing "Five Little Ducks" and use fingers to show how many are left.

READING **Story props**
Use teddies or kitchen items to act out a story you've read together.

READING **Listening walk**
Go for a walk and listen carefully. What sounds can you hear?

READING **Logo spotting**
Point out signs and shop names when you're out: "That says 'bus stop'."

WRITING **Paint with water**
Give them a brush and a bucket of water to "paint" walls and fences outside.

WRITING **Messy marks**
Draw shapes in sand, flour or shaving foam with a finger.

WRITING **Kitchen helpers**
Stirring, pouring and using tongs all build strong hands for writing.

TALK **Pretend play**
Play shops, cafés or doctors. Join in and use lots of new words.

TALK **Screen-free time**
Turn off the TV at mealtimes so there's more time to talk together.

Why reading matters

Sharing books from an early age builds language, listening and a lifelong love of stories.

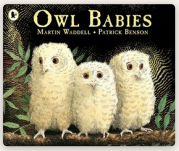
Children who are read to every day hear far more words before they start school.

Visit your local library

- Joining is **free** – even for babies and toddlers.
- Borrow books for free and swap them as often as you like.
- Many libraries run free rhyme time and story sessions.

☆ Recommended reads for Nursery

Stories, facts and rhymes from many voices and places. Look out for them at your local library.

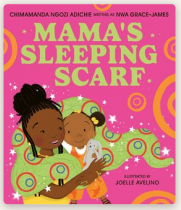


PICTURE BOOK

Owl Babies

Martin Waddell & Patrick Benson

Three baby owls wake up to find their mother gone. Will she come back?

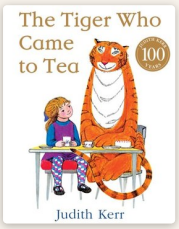


PICTURE BOOK

Mama's Sleeping Scarf

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie & Joelle Avelino

Chino plays with Mama's scarf and shares it with the family she loves.

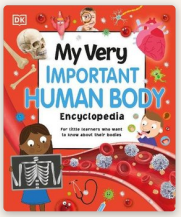


CLASSIC STORY

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Judith Kerr

A hungry tiger drops in for tea – and eats and drinks everything in the house!

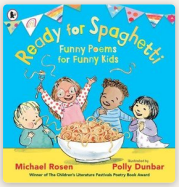


NON-FICTION

My Very Important Human Body Encyclopedia

DK

Bright pictures and simple facts about how our amazing bodies work.

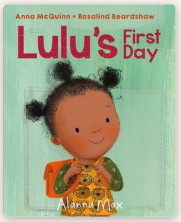


POETRY

Ready for Spaghetti

Michael Rosen & Polly Dunbar

Funny, bouncy poems for little ones – perfect for joining in.

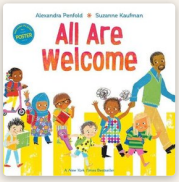


PICTURE BOOK

Lulu's First Day

Anna McQuinn & Rosalind Beardshaw

Lulu gets ready for her first day at preschool – a lovely book for new starters.

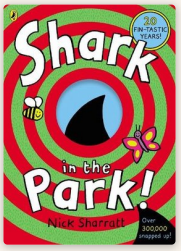


PICTURE BOOK

All Are Welcome

Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufman

A joyful rhyming story about a school where everyone belongs.



PICTURE BOOK

Shark in the Park!

Nick Sharratt

Timothy spots a shark through his telescope… or does he? Peep-through fun.

Find 50 more top reads

Scan the code or visit **booksfortopics.com** and choose **Recommended Reads › Preschool**.