DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helping your child at home

Simple ideas for maths, reading and writing

Reception

Talk every day

Talking is where reading, writing and maths begin. The more words your child hears and uses, the more they can do.

Tell me one thing
"Tell me one thing you played with today."

Play pretend
Join in their games and add new words to the story.

Wait and listen
Give them time to answer, then repeat it back in a full sentence.

Maths

Count everything
Count steps, grapes and cars – forwards and backwards, past 20.

Show me with fingers
"Show me 5. Now show me 5 a different way." (3 and 2, 4 and 1…)

Dice games
Board games help children see amounts on a dice without counting.

Share it out
Share snacks fairly between teddies: "Does everyone have the same?"

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON IN RECEPTION

COUNTING
Count confidently beyond 20

SEEING AMOUNTS
Know how many in a small group (up to 5) without counting

NUMBER BONDS
Know pairs that make 5, and some that make 10

COMPARING
Say which group has more, fewer or the same (up to 10)

DOUBLES
Know double facts such as double 3 is 6

PATTERNS
Spot odd and even numbers and number patterns

TALK LIKE A MATHEMATICIAN – ENCOURAGE FULL SENTENCES

"5 is one more than 4."

"3 and 2 make 5."

KEY MATHS WORDS TO USE AT HOME

count · number · add · take away · altogether · more · fewer · the same · double · share · heavier · lighter · longer · shorter

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

Reading

Read every day

Ten minutes is enough. Little and often works best.

Practise the sounds

Say the sounds taught at school, then blend them: s-a-t, sat.

Share stories too

Keep reading picture books aloud – they build vocabulary and a love of books.

Praise the effort

Celebrate every word they read. Confidence matters most.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

"Who is in the story?"

"What happened at the end?"

"What was your favourite part? Why?"

Writing

Say it, then write it

Say a short word or sentence out loud before writing. Sound it out together.

Write their name

Practise their name with a capital letter first, then lower-case letters.

Labels and captions

Label drawings: "my cat", "a big red bus". Every word counts!

Strong fingers

Playdough, Lego and cutting with scissors all help with pencil grip.

RECEPTION TRICKY WORDS TO PRACTISE

I the to no go into he she we me be my you was

These words can't be sounded out easily. Practise a few each week – spot them in books, too.

More ideas to try at home

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

MATHS **Number walk**
Spot door numbers on your street. What comes next? What came before?

MATHS **Bake together**
Count spoonfuls, crack eggs and share out the cakes fairly.

MATHS **Hide and count**
Hide some toys under a cup: "There were 5, now I can see 3. How many are hiding?"

MATHS **Shape pictures**
Make a picture from cut-out circles, squares, triangles and rectangles.

READING **Sound hunt**
Find things in the house that start with this week's sound.

READING **Story map**
Draw a favourite story as a map, then use it to retell the story.

READING **Rhyme time**
Keep singing songs and rhymes – they help children hear sounds in words.

WRITING **Shopping lists**
Write the list together, with pictures and the first sound of each item.

WRITING **Cards and notes**
Make birthday cards and sign their name – a real reason to write.

WRITING **Big chalk letters**
Write letters and names in chalk outside, as big as you like.

TALK **Puppet show**
Use socks or toys as puppets and make up a story together.

TALK **Screen-free meals**
Turn off screens at mealtimes so there's more time to chat.

Why reading matters

Sharing books every day builds language, listening and imagination – the building blocks for learning to read.

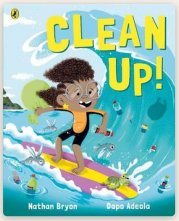
Let your child see you reading too!

Visit your local library

- Joining is **free** and children can borrow books at no cost.
- Let them choose – picture books, fact books, anything they enjoy.
- Many libraries run free story times and rhyme sessions.

☆ Recommended reads for Reception

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

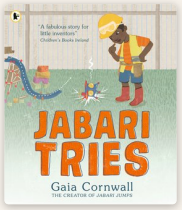


PICTURE BOOK

Clean Up!

Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola

On holiday at her grandparents' island, Rocket finds plastic on the beach and starts a big clean-up.

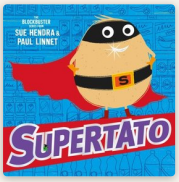


PICTURE BOOK

Jabari Tries

Gaia Cornwall

Jabari builds a flying machine. When it doesn't work, he learns to keep trying.

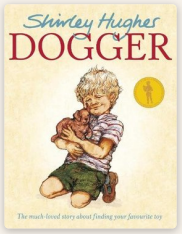


PICTURE BOOK

Supertato

Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet

The Evil Pea is causing chaos in the supermarket. Only Supertato can stop him!



CLASSIC STORY

Dogger

Shirley Hughes

Dave loses his favourite toy dog – then spots him for sale at the school fair.

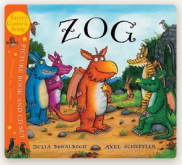


PICTURE BOOK

The Colour Monster

Anna Llenas

A little monster sorts out his mixed-up feelings by colour. Great for talking about emotions.



RHYMING STORY

Zog

Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Zog is the keenest dragon at school – but he keeps crashing, until a kind princess helps.

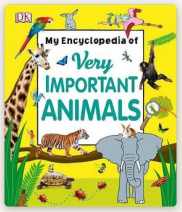


COMIC-STYLE

Bear and Bird: The Picnic and Other Stories

Jarvis

Short, funny comic-strip stories about two best friends.



NON-FICTION

My Encyclopedia of Very Important Animals

DK

Bright photos and fun facts about animals from all over the world.

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