

Year 6 Help at home leaflet

READING

Objectives to secure by July 2021:

Read and understand a wide range of texts independently and with ease.

Understand how organisational structures and language are used to contribute to meaning and how this affects the reader.

Through discussion, and in writing about their reading, show that they are able to build inferences around characters' feelings, thoughts and motives, supporting these with evidence from the text.

Provide a succinct summary drawn from more than one paragraph.



What This Means for Parents

Give your child access to lots of books on many different topics and by a wide range of authors who write in different styles, e.g. Pamela Butchart, Michael Morpurgo to Julia Donaldson. There are lots of age appropriate booklists on line.

Encourage your child to ask for help with the pronunciation of new words if their reasonable attempt does not sound correct.

Broaden the vocabulary you use when speaking to your child and be prepared to clarify the meaning of a wider range of words, modelling them within sentences.

Encourage your child to read silently to themselves but check their understanding of what they have read after doing so.

Encourage your child to partake in drama and theatre activities or debates outside of school.

Read difficult texts to your child and allow them the chance to listen and ask questions.

Additional ideas to support reading at home:

*Teaching your child the technical terms needed for discussing what they hear and read, such as metaphor, simile, analogy, imagery, style and effect.

- Reading whole books to your child so that they can meet texts and authors they might not choose to read themselves.
- Exposing your child to more than one account of the same event so that they can examine similarities and differences.
- Showing your child different types of writing, such as diaries and autobiographies which are written in the first person, and discussing the relevant features.
- Teaching your child how to use contents and index pages within reference books so that they can retrieve information, and frequently asking them to do so.
- Allowing your child to read texts they are genuinely interested in, e.g. reading information leaflets before visiting a gallery or museum, or reading a theatre programme or review.
- Providing your child with ample opportunities to access increasing challenging texts which explore a variety of themes.

General Resources:

Oxford Owl free e-library <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

World Book Day (activities, e-books and more) <https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Authorfy book extracts (a good opportunity to try something new) <https://authorfy.com/extracts/>

WRITING

Objectives to secure by July 2021:

Writing is securely organised within coherent paragraphs.

- When reading, ask your child when there is a new topic which aspect of TiPToP the author is using to write a new paragraph.

Employ a variety of vocabulary and structures suitable to the purpose, audience and form of their writing.

Sentence length and structure are varied for effect.

- Write a short story in one sentence. Can your child add punctuation and vary sentence length and openers?

Show awareness of standard forms and can write in different tenses as required.

- Write text messages in formal language and in past tense and ask your children to change the tone and the tense.

Draw on a range of effective strategies for spelling, using a wider range of rules and patterns.

When evaluating and editing their writing, they can discuss their choices, add detail and delete for clarification.

How to help at home

There are lots of ways you can help your Year 6 child with writing. Here are our top ideas.

1. Read to your child

While children do learn new language and ideas from speaking and listening, the type of language we use in writing is often very different from that in speech. Reading regularly to your child, especially longer chapter books that they might not be able to yet read independently, is a great way to support their writing.

When you are reading together, look at how authors use different techniques for effect. For example, how do they show excitement or build a sense of tension? How do they make use of interesting language, such as metaphors or similes?

2. Have your child to read to you

Even though your child may be able to read independently now, making time to hear them read is great for their reading development. Also, by frequently seeing words in print, they will be able to see how different words (and the punctuation and grammar that join them) are used to share meaning.



When you read, occasionally look at the punctuation and talk about what it is telling the reader to do. Show your child how a question mark tells you to raise your voice at the end of the sentence to indicate a question being asked.

Explore how you can show the ‘feeling’ behind an exclamation mark. Are the characters shouting? Has something unexpected happened? Has something gone wrong?

3. Try some real-world writing

Writing at home can be a great way of practising writing, including using grammar and punctuation to create particular effects. Here are some ideas to encourage regular writing:

- Create a story about a space adventurer with strange planetary systems to explore. Every week or month, your child could write about a new chapter about a different planet. Before long, the chapters will have built into a book they can be really proud of.
- Write an A-to-Z. It could be based on anything your child is interested in – animals, space, dinosaurs, fairies, even their favourite TV programme. A page for each letter of the alphabet gives you 26 short pieces of writing spread over the year that build into one big project.
- Produce a version of a book for a younger child. For example, they could write *The Rhino Who Came to Tea* or *The Very Hungry Angler Fish*. Books with a distinctive format such as *The Day the Crayons Quit* or *The Last Polar Bears* are perfect for this.
- Write the book of a film or TV programme. If children have watched something they’ve really enjoyed, they could try and tell the same story in writing. Watching the story on screen can give them a useful frame to hang their own writing on.
- While writing using a pen and pencil is useful practice, writing on the computer counts too. You might want to turn the spelling and grammar check off to help children to learn to confidently use their own knowledge. The grammar check can be wrong, too, so this can be confusing for children.

4. Tell stories aloud

Giving your child the opportunity to tell stories orally is a great way to get them used to structuring their ideas and using adventurous language. If they’re not sure where to start, see if they can retell a story that they already know well. Our Traditional tales titles activity sheet has some fun ideas for retelling old stories.

If your child finds it useful to plan out their story first, try our free Story mountain to make a great plot with a beginning, middle, and end. Your child might also enjoy reciting poetry.

5. Find story inspiration

You can find fun story ideas anywhere! Why not raid your kitchen cupboards or hunt through the attic to find lost treasures? Anything from an old hat to a telescope will do the trick. What could the object be used for? Who might be looking for it? What secrets could it hold? Suggest different genres such as mystery or science fiction and discuss how the item might be used in this kind of story.

Real-world facts can also be a great source of inspiration. For example, did you know a jumping flea can accelerate faster than a space rocket taking off into orbit? What crazy story can your child make out of this fact? Newspapers and news websites can be great for finding these sorts of ideas.

6. Draw your ideas first

If your child isn't sure where to start with a story or even a piece of non-fiction, it can sometimes be helpful to sketch out their ideas first. For instance, can they draw a picture of a dastardly villain or a brave hero? How about a scary woodland or an enchanted castle?

Your child might also find it useful to draw maps or diagrams. What are all the different areas of their fantasy landscape called? How is the baddie's base organised?

Some children might enjoy taking this idea a step further and drawing their own comics. This is great practice – it stretches your child's creativity, gets them thinking about plot, character, and dialogue, and is a big confidence boost once they've finished and have an amazing story to look back on.

General Resources:

Pobble 365 (a new stimulus for writing and discussion every day) <https://www.pobble365.com/>

Reading Rockets (interesting ideas on vocabulary building at home)

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/building-your-child-s-vocabulary>

Spelling Shed

Sir Linkalot Spelling (free app that supports the English National Curriculum)

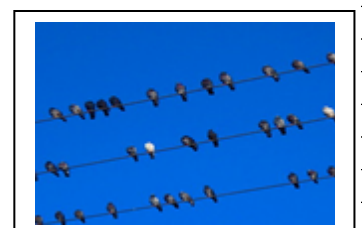
Top Marks (spelling and grammar games) <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

MATHS

Objectives to secure by July 2021:

Use formal written methods for all four operations including long multiplication and division.

Working confidently with fractions, decimals, percentages, and simple ratios.



Able to solve a range of problems demanding efficient written and mental methods of calculation.

Beginning to use algebraic representations as a tool for problem-solving

Learners are able to:

- compare, order, and calculate with fractions, decimals, and percentages
- use simple formulae
- recognise and generate number sequences
- calculate the area and volume of simple shapes
- classify shapes using correct vocabulary.
- measure and draw angles
- interpret a range of graphs and charts and calculate the mean average

Learners are able to:

- compare, order, and calculate with fractions, decimals, and percentages
- use simple formulae
- recognise and generate number sequences
- describe positions on the four-quadrant grid
- calculate the area and volume of simple shapes
- classify shapes with increasingly complex geometric properties using correct vocabulary.
- measure and draw angles
- interpret a range of graphs and charts and calculate the mean average

General resources:

Maths Frame (interactive games for a variety of Maths domains) <https://mathsframe.co.uk/>

SumDog (children can sign up for a free account to play games to practise a variety of Maths skills) <https://www.sumdog.com>

Daily 10 from Top Marks (Daily mental maths questions to cover a variety of skills – select Level 3) <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

Times table rockstar