

Supporting your child when writing

We are not expecting lots of writing in these early days or for every word to be spelled accurately. As your child gains confidence in their writing ability the accuracy and length of their writing will naturally increase. Instead, this is an opportunity for your child to begin to put their phonic and language skills into practise. Be on hand to guide and encourage but we really want the children to be as independent as possible.

4 Steps to Success!



Keep it simple!

Children to think of a simple sentence to write. We need to be able to hold and recall each word in order from our heads so the fewer the words the easier they will be to recall.



e.g. "I went to the park."

What can you hear?



Parents/ Carers to ask, "What's the first word we need to write?"

If it is a tricky word, the children can simply write this down (if needed they can copy from the word mat).

For other words ask, "What sounds can you hear?" **It is important not to sound out for your child.** If they need support say the word for them nice and slowly so they can hear the different sounds more easily. Encourage your child to write down the sounds they hear in the order they hear them.

Note: They may not hear ALL the sounds. This is normal. As their segmenting skills become more efficient with practise they will start to isolate more sounds.

Your child's phonic knowledge is still quite limited at the moment. Over this term we will be increasing our bank of phonemes and graphemes with the introduction of new Phase 3 sounds but until then your child may hear a sound e.g. 'ar' (as in 'park') but not know how to write this sound. Instead they may find a sound they do know that is similar e.g. 'u'. Therefore writing 'park' as 'puk'.

Please do not correct your child – it can undermine their efforts. In time they will be able to draw on a wider bank of phonic sounds to help them find the correct grapheme they need and as such the spelling will become more accurate.

Use finger spaces between words so that each word can be seen clearly.

This also makes it easier when reading back the sentence to check it makes sense and that no words have been omitted.



Finish your sentence with a full stop

and, when your child is ready, check each sentence begins with a capital letter.



You will find sound mats, tricky words, a writing checklist and capital letter chart in the new 'Writing support' menu from our class page for you to access at any time or print off and add to your 'writing area'.