



Caterpillars Foundation 1

Ways to help your child at home:

- Practice putting their coat on themselves, and fastening it up
- Practice putting on their shoes/wellies
- Practice pulling up clothes after using the toilet
- Help your child to be self sufficient

Reading and Phonics

Each week your child will bring home two books:

1. Phonics Books (After October half term)

These are wordless books to encourage your child's speaking and listening. Make up your own stories, talk about characters and where the story is set. Find the front and back cover, the author and illustrator. Can we think what might happen next etc.

2. Recommended Reads

These are for you to read to your child. One of the most important things you can do with your child at home is read. You can read anything and everything. Read stories to them, encourage them to read suitable books themselves, practise reading instructions, signs and posters. Show your child the joy of reading and discuss what you have read together. Ask questions about the stories they have enjoyed and see if they can retell the story in their own words.

At school, your child will have a daily phonics lesson to help teach them hear and differentiate between sounds. Phonics is taught in short, focused sessions in which we play lots of games around sounds, blending and segmenting, rhymes, stories, songs and listening skills.

In school, they take part in lots of different activities designed to improve fine motor control and finger strength. Activities such as playing with playdough, colouring and threading are great for developing finger strength and control.

Maths

Numbers are all around us, so it is easy to incorporate number recognition and counting into daily life: try going on a number hunt, counting how many Lego bricks are in a tower and playing board games. There are so many opportunities to work on number skills though play and daily life.

At home, allow children to explore problems practically and have objects such as counters or blocks available to help.

Ask your child to help with activities such sharing out some strawberries fairly or setting the table. Challenge your child to make a tower with one more or fewer blocks.

In addition to number work, in FS1 maths children look at shape, space and measures, thinking about sizes and quantities and patterns. They compare quantities and measures of objects and learn to use measurement terms like longer, shorter, more, fewer, tallest and shortest. These aspects of maths can be explored in very practical ways.

Look for shapes in the house or environment, discuss what times of day you do certain things like going to bed or have breakfast, compare who has more/fewer grapes, look at the containers you have around the house and experiment to find out which container holds the most. Make patterns in pictures and see if your child can spot any around the house or in the garden.

Websites to help

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

