

Pre Reading Skills

- **Matching**

When we read, - part of what we do involves matching. Children learn to match shapes, patterns, letters and, finally, words. **Top Tip:** Play simple visual memory games.

- **Rhyming**

Research shows that children who can understand about rhyming words have a head start in learning to read and, even more, to spell. **Top Tip:** Sing Nursery Rhymes and share rhyming stories.

- **Letter skills**

As well as recognising letter shapes, learning the most common sounds that each letter makes will give children a head start. **Top Tip:** Play simple listening games to hone your child's listening skills.

- **Direction**

English print goes from left to right, so children will need to be familiar with where to start each line and which direction to go in. **Top Tip:** Track the text with your finger when you read with your child.

- **Motor Skills**

Practising writing letters and words as they learn to read them will help it all to sink in, so a good pencil grip and control is useful. **Top Tip:** Make playdough for your child to play with. It helps with their manipulations and to strengthen their fingers. Construction toys like Lego are good too.

- **Concepts of Print**

This is knowing how to handle books – holding them the right way up, turning the pages in sequence, exploring the pictures, knowing that the words can be read to tell a story. **Top Tip:** Talk about the illustrations and meaning of unfamiliar words.

- **Language Skills**

The more experience children have of language, the more easily they learn to read. Children need to hear and join in conversations, listen to stories and poetry of all sorts. **Top Tip:** Read, read, read to your child.