

Information to Support Your Child on their 'Emerging Literacy' Journey

Phonological Awareness

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Emerging Literacy

Rhyme

Little Miss Muffet,
Sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey,
Along came a spider,
And sat down beside her,
Scaring Miss Muffet away

Phonological Awareness

When developing phonological awareness skills in school, we will develop a number of skills including your child's ability to listen to instructions, their ability to hear and produce rhyme, their awareness of the syllables within words and their awareness of the sounds within words.

At home, one way you can support your child's phonological awareness is through developing their rhyming skills. This can be developed through:

- Sharing nursery rhymes
- Reading rhyming books
- Making up rhymes together
- Supporting your child in creating rhyming words'

Oral Awareness



Emerging Literacy

Playing with your child for ten minutes a day will support the development of your child's oral language.












**Oral
Language**

When you are talking to someone, what are some of the things that they do when they're not giving you their full attention?	In comparison, when you're talking with someone what do they do to show you that they are giving you their full attention?'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No eye-contact • Distracted by a phone/ TV/ computer etc. • Listening to another conversation • Talking over you when you are talking • Showing no interest in what you're saying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give you eye-contact • Sit close to you • Turn off a phone/ TV/ computer etc. • Find a quiet space to talk • Allow you to finish before they talk • Show that they're interested by smiling and nodding

So, when you're playing with your child some of the things you can do to ensure that they have your full attention are:

- Playing beside them
- Giving them eye-contact
- Turning off a phone/ TV/ computer etc.
- Finding a quiet space
- Allowing them to finish before you talk
- Showing that you're interested by smiling and nodding

It is important that all of these things are in place to support your child's language development. You will support your child's language through allowing them to hear and use familiar and new words within different activities.

Playing alongside your child for ten minutes a day will support the development of your child's oral language'.

Fine Motor Skills



In school, we aim to support your child in developing bigger movements, known as gross motor skills, through indoor and outdoor physical and play activities. We also aim to support your child's smaller movements, known as fine motor skills, through a number of fine motor, scissor and pre-handwriting activities.

Some things which you may do at home to support your child are to:

- Provide them with opportunities to use scissors to cut out shapes and patterns
- Provide them with big paper and drawing implements
- Allow them to make marks outside with paint brushes and water or large chalks
- Create a chain with pasta and a shoe lace
- Create objects using dough
- Make finger puppets
- Put coins into a money box
- Hammer
- Squeeze bubble wrap
- Use a range of tools e.g. cutlery at meals, baking-cookie cutters etc.
- Play with small construction toys e.g. Lego,
- Play with wind-up toys

Concepts of Print



To develop your child's awareness of print, it is recommended that you read to your child every day. You may read lots of different stories or you may read their favourite story again and again. Reading with your child for ten minutes each day will have a positive impact on their awareness of print. When reading with your child, sit beside them, allow them to see the pages and point out the pictures. By doing this you are modelling the reading process.

When out and about, point out food labels, road signs and shop signs. Become a member of the library - whether that be through visiting the library or the library van.

For further information: <https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/read-write-count>

(Thanks to Highland Council for access to their Literacy resources, adapted for this leaflet, to support Emerging Literacy.)