

HELP!

with Talking & Listening



- Discuss all kinds of events and issues, encouraging them to give and justify their opinions.

- Watch and discuss television news reports and current affairs programmes. If they are particularly interested in a subject or event help them to look for further information eg. in newspapers, news sites on the Internet.

- Involve them in adult conversations, when appropriate. This experience will provide a range of language styles, ideas and vocabulary.

- Help them to extend the range of words understood and used by using specialised vocabulary when talking about mutual interests eg. sport, cooking, cars, computer programs, music.

- Encourage them to tell you about aspects of their interests eg. explaining the features of a software programme, describing a match or game, recounting a school trip, summarising a story.

- Provide a good listening model by responding to and asking questions about what they have to say.



Helping Your Child

Key Stage 3



with Reading

- Try to make a range of materials available at home.
- Encourage them to make use of facilities at local library.
- Encourage reading for different purposes:
 - for enjoyment and relaxation;
 - to find information;
 - reading and explaining instructions;
 - reading articles from local/national newspapers.
- Value and show an interest in their choices of personal reading.
- If possible read some of their choice of personal reading so that you know what to talk about.
- Talk to them about what you enjoy reading.
- Encourage thoughtful criticism and comment about reading and viewing of all kinds.
- Ask open questions to encourage discussion about reading eg. 'What is

this passage/poem/magazine article about?'
'Why is this product being advertised in this way?'

Read more than one newspaper at home and talk about the differences in how events are reported or choice of front page stories.

- Encourage them to find information needed at home eg. a recipe, telephone numbers, family holiday, weather reports.
- Help them to find their way around reference books, CD Roms, web pages by drawing attention to features such as layout, contents, index etc.
- Encourage them to show you and talk about what they are currently reading in English.
- Discuss homework tasks – talking things through is very important.
- Support with school research tasks by helping to find sources of information.
- Encourage effective note taking – key words and phrases taken from reading.



HELP!

with Writing

Discuss writing tasks with them eg. purpose and audience.

- Understand that different types of writing require different language and setting out.
- Understand that writing is a process with different stages – gathering ideas, organising ideas, drafting, editing and presentation.
- Encourage them to focus initially on what they are trying to say.
- Act as a sounding board for their ideas for writing.
- Encourage independent use of dictionaries and thesauruses.
- Comment on what they have done well rather than on mistakes.
- Let them see you writing and discuss your writing with them.
- Look out for software programs which involve reading and writing for real purposes rather than those which simply drill spelling or punctuation eg. making/completing crosswords, solving puzzles, choosing your own adventure games.
- Encourage writing to organisations for information – fan clubs, supporters' clubs, voluntary organisations.