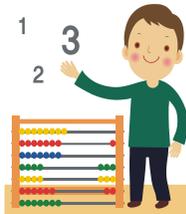


Maths

As with reading, try to make maths as much fun as possible - games, puzzles and jigsaws are a great way to start.

It's also important to show how we use maths skills in our everyday lives and to involve your child in this.

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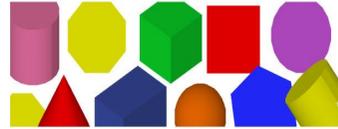


Identifying problems and solving them can also help your child develop maths skills. If you see him or her puzzling over something, talk about the problem and try to work out the solution together. **Remember to count everywhere and everything!**

Don't shy away from maths if you didn't like it at school. Try to find new ways to enjoy the subject with your child.

Tips for helping your child to enjoy maths:

- Point out the **different shapes** to be found around your home.

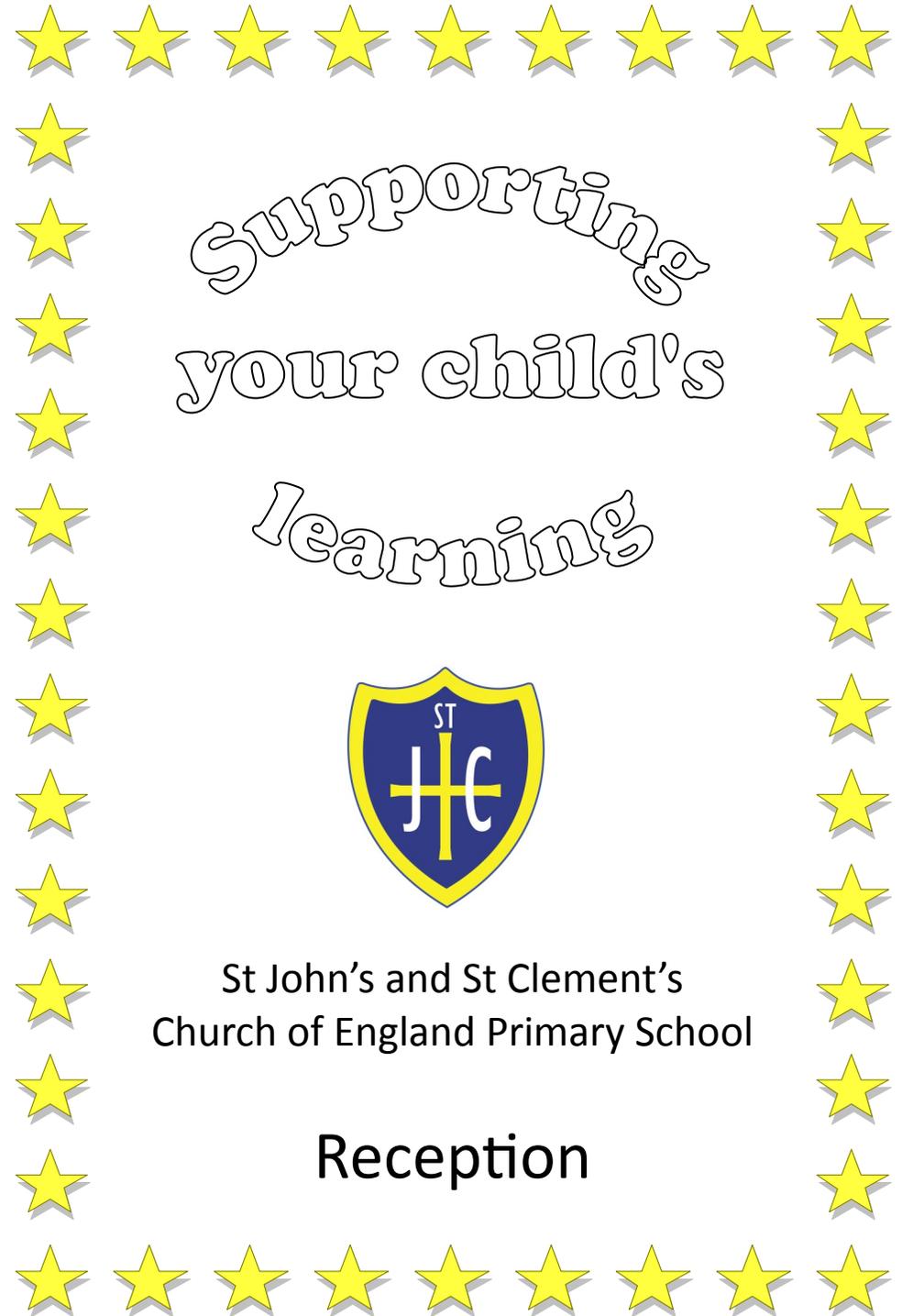


- making models out of junk, e.g. cereal boxes, plastic bottles etc
- Take your child shopping and talk about the quantities of anything you buy.
- Let your child handle money and work out how much things cost.



- Look together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates.

- in the kitchen - with weighing and measuring, and temperature and timings
- measuring their height and working out how much they've grown



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you will find this leaflet helpful. It aims to provide some guidelines for what your child should be achieving. Should you have any specific questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Speaking



As you know, the ability to read and write well is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.

Children learn and practise many of the skills that they need for reading and writing from a very early age. They explore and learn through singing and saying rhymes, making and listening to music, talking with others, sharing books with adults and other children, dressing up, experimenting with writing and using puppets and toys to retell and make up stories.

Children's spoken language supports reading and writing

In order to make a good start in reading and writing, children need to have an adult **listen to them and talk to them**. Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing.

- **Everyday activities** such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out offer you the chance to talk to your child, explaining what you are doing. Through these activities, children hear the way language is put together into sentences for a purpose.
- **Make time to listen to your child talking** – as you meet them from their setting or school, as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times etc
- **Listen at home** – switch off the TV and listen to the sounds, both inside and outside the home. Can your child tell you what sounds they heard, in the order in which they heard them?
- **Show that you are interested in what they are talking about** – look at your child, smile, nod your head, ask a question or make a response to show that you really have been listening.
- **Use puppets** and toys to make up stories or retell known ones. Record your child telling the story and play it back to them.



Reading & Writing



In order to make reading something that your children will want to do every day of their lives, it's essential to make it fun and rewarding. Obviously, as your child grows, he or she will become "hooked" on reading for reading's sake; but in the beginning, it's up to you to demonstrate how reading can be thrilling and fun.

- **Make Reading a Positive Experience** Even if you're extremely frustrated by your child's lack of progress when it comes to reading, do not show him or her anything but optimism and support. However, you can be firm and insist that he or she spend five minutes a day on letters.
- **Read with Your Child** One of the best ways to make reading a wonderful, magical, intimate experience is to take time out of your busy schedule every day to read to (or with) your child. Choose a time when distractions are at a minimum, such as post-dinner or before bedtime.
- **Make Sure That You Read Yourself** Children imitate the adults in their lives, and therefore, if you want your youngster to read, you'll have to read yourself. Even if you only read the newspaper in the morning, be sure to explain to your child how interesting it is to be able to find out about the world around you. That way, he or she will see the act as natural.
- **Ask Your Child to Read to You** Even if your little one is only "making up" the story or reading very simple words, that's perfectly fine. The aim of this exercise isn't for him or her to be perfect – it's to build his or her confidence.
- **Build Your Child a Library** Having one's own personal collection of books (even just a few) can make a child who is learning to read feel very special.
- **Magnetic letters** Buy magnetic letters for your fridge, or for use with a tin tray. Find out which letters have been taught – have fun finding these with your child and place them on the magnetic surface.
- **Start with drawing** If you or your child enjoys drawing, this is a very good entry point for handwriting as it gives valuable practice in guiding a pencil. If you can draw even quite simple pictures, your child will enjoy watching you and perhaps guessing what your picture will be.
- **Letter formation** The most important first step in learning to write is for the child to learn to follow the right 'movement pathway' of each letter. When little fingers get the habit of forming each letter the right way, handwriting becomes much easier. If you are not quite sure how each letter should be written speak to your child's class teacher
- **Writing** is harder than reading words – praise, don't criticise. Whiteboards and pens, any paper, cardboard, any pens are all good ways for children to try out their writing.

