



MISS COWLEY AND MISS MAW'S..... TOP TIPS FOR MAKING LEARNING FUN!



Learning to read and write can be difficult and tiring so here are some top tips to keep learning at home fun and purposeful!

- Short and snappy reading sessions (3-5 minutes) are better than long and arduous! A little bit of reading each day will make a huge difference.
- Don't forget to join in with 'robot arms' and the sound actions – you're never too old! It will particularly help your child if they learn best through 'doing' (i.e. they are a kinaesthetic learner)
- Keep reading **to** your child as well as listening to them read. This is so important and benefits your child in so many ways (developing vocabulary, understanding story structure and loving books just to name a few!)
- Find quiet, dedicated time for reading and let your child know you are excited to help! Lots of praise and encouragement goes a very long way to making learning fun.
- Perhaps invest in some bath pens (for writing on bathroom tiles at bath time), chalks (for writing on the ground) or glitter pens to make writing extra special.
- Magnetic boards and letters are a great way of building words without the need to write, great for those in need of a present idea!
- When you are out and about; sound out words eg 'I can see a d-o-g 'dog!'", play I spy or point out letters/words on signs, number plates etc (they are everywhere!)
- If you have a smartphone, download some of the free phonic apps available – lots of them are good fun and the kids love them – likewise there are lots of great phonics games online eg cbeebies 'alphablocks', 'phonicsplay', the 'jolly phonics' app or 'jollyphonics songs in order' or 'tricky word songs' on youtube.
- Children can find letter formations tricky but it is important they use the correct sequence of movements right from the start (because of the need to join their writing later in school and bad habits are harder to break!) You can help by showing them how to form the letter yourself and then drawing a dot for them to start from. If they are finding a letter particularly tricky then write the letter yourself in pencil and get them to trace over in pen, drawing the starting dot to show them where to begin.
- Put the alphabet (phase 2/phase 3) poster that we have given you in a prominent place where your child will see it regularly (next to bed, dining table or even the loo!) Asking questions like 'can you find me an 'a'?' or 'What does Mummy's name begin with?' all are super quick learning opportunities.



HAPPY READING AND WRITING!!



If you need anymore support of have any questions we are always here to help!