

## Secondary School Cognition and Learning SEN Suggestions for Parents

Intervention	Focus	Home learning activities – PLEASE CHECK ALL ACTIVITIES FOR SUITABILITY
Cognition and Learning Needs		
Handwriting practise	<p>Correct formation of letters</p> <p>Developing speed and fluency of letter formation</p>	<p><u>Preparation</u> Put the phrase `free handwriting sheets` into a search engine and find suitable worksheets or look on twinkl (who are offering free access to all of their site, at the moment, I believe)</p> <p><u>Starting point for form of writing</u> Pupils need to work through these stages of independent writing: Non-cursive/print handwriting patterns Non-cursive/print lower case letters Upper case letters Cursive writing</p> <p><u>Starting point for grip and movement</u> Depending on your child's motor skills you may need to enlarge the worksheets. Also, look to see if your child has a tripod grip (when your child holds the pen and you look down from the point, the tips of the thumb, second and third finger form a regular triangle shape around the tip.) If your child hasn't got a tripod grip and they report finger, wrist or arm ache when writing, try a larger pen/pen grip or other grip.</p>

<p>Reading</p>	<p>Developing fluent reading</p> <p>Developing reading comprehension.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage daily reading. Anything they want as long as it's appropriate, it doesn't have to be books...maybe magazines, comics, newspapers, cookbooks, instructions etc.</li> <li>- You could share the reading with your child or read your own book next to them</li> <li>- Hi-Lo books are worth investigating – high interest (fact and fiction) but low reading ages – some have reading ages of 6</li> <li>- When reading with your child, you may need to remind them that there are two approaches to reading words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* If they recognise the word they should just say it – the whole word/sight word approach</li> <li>* If they don't know the word, they should try to `sound it out' ie. use their phonic knowledge and then blend/merge the sounds together in order</li> </ul> </li> <li>- In order to have the reading `flow' you may need to read some words for your child and only ask them to sound out the ones that will be relatively easy for them.</li> <li>- Also, to support fluent reading, have your child scan/look over the next sentence and point to any words they don't know, so you can teach those, before they read the whole sentence</li> <li>- To prompt reading comprehension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask one or more of these questions after reading a page/paragraph: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) How can we summarise what we've just read?</li> <li>ii) Do we need to clarify anything? eg. meaning of words, connections to other concepts/events that have already been taught/happened, motivations/feelings of characters</li> <li>iii) What do you think will happen next?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Reading continued...		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Listening comprehension is also very important ie. listening to their choice of real/non-phonetic books.</li><li>- You could read to your child</li><li>- Search on you tube for suitable videos. Useful phrases for the search include 'Children's stories read by actors,' 'Children's stories about {your child's favourite topic/s}' and '{the title of your child's favourite stories}'</li><li>- Particularly useful for secondary children, there's a company in America called 'kids read 2 kids' which has videos of decodable books (phonetic reading books) being read by children. (You can buy these books on amazon, but don't need to and, if you do, be aware that the link is to the amazon in America.) They also do abridged classics with literacy lesson plans in chapters. (Remember to watch it through first for suitability and to check the running time. Think about learning breaks so that the periods of listening are matched to your child's attention span.)</li><li>- Maybe just persuade your child to switch the subtitles on when they are watching a film/series they know very well, as this is a good way to practise their reading</li><li>- Investigate the free Microsoft software 'immersive reader' which supports reading for children who find this difficult</li><li>- Investigate accessing audiobooks</li><li>- Being able to read the 300 highest frequency words (HFW) accounts for over 40% of all reading and writing. You can get this list by putting the phrase '300 highest frequency words' into a search engine. Then make your own flashcards</li></ul>
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<p>Personalised maths</p>	<p>Secure understanding of whole number and operations</p> <p>Quick recall of number facts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support your child to be confident and quick with number facts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number bonds to 10  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV_HzaEckhk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PV_HzaEckhk</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI-1g7ZnHzA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XI-1g7ZnHzA</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTGGOm5CEOE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTGGOm5CEOE</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eldHzSdAOs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eldHzSdAOs</a></li> <li>• Number bonds to 20  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB_uj0XGWYA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB_uj0XGWYA</a></li> <li>• number bond to 100  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koR08h-PC4M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koR08h-PC4M</a></li> <li>• Times tables facts (the video below goes from the one times table to the twelve times table)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PoJOWjHcc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3PoJOWjHcc</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(For alternative songs for each times table put the phrase into you tube “times table by Mr Demaio”)</p> <p>A good video that points out that the times tables only have six rules and a few other facts to remember is below:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI2qzC1vUGk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EI2qzC1vUGk</a></p> <p>Working out the times tables from 6x6 upwards, using fingers is demonstrated on the video below:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70UVUlobZyM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70UVUlobZyM</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are maths activities on Twinkl</li> <li>- Try requesting a free trial of Dynamo Maths or Unicorn Maths (These resources are based on the latest research into maths difficulties.)</li> </ul>
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Personalised English	Development of key literacy skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate free speech to text software, such as Windows Speech Recognition, so your child can record their ideas without having to write</li> <li>- Search 'writing activities' at <a href="https://www.twinkl.co.uk/">https://www.twinkl.co.uk/</a> for more writing activities</li> <li>- There are writing activities linked to audio book on 'kids read 2 kids' mentioned above</li> <li>- Investigate the free software grammarly for writing feedback for your child, including grammar</li> </ul>
Phonics	<p>Recognise sounds (in each target phase)</p> <p>Read words containing target sounds</p>	<p>(Be very careful if looking for phonics resources yourself, as there are two forms of phonics and we now teach <b>synthetic</b> phonics – about 44 sounds and we blend them together, not analytic phonics which talks of many 'blends' eg. str, bl etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Search 'phonics' at <a href="https://www.twinkl.co.uk/">https://www.twinkl.co.uk/</a> for phonics activities</li> <li>- Try a free seven day trial of Nessy and access phonics videos and worksheets for 5-16 year olds on <a href="https://www.nessy.com/uk/">https://www.nessy.com/uk/</a></li> </ul> <p>(Please ignore the advice about dyslexia as this isn't the Kent Dyslexia Model)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In terms of understanding synthetic phonics there are several good videos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is phonics? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42jb6PopZCI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42jb6PopZCI</a></li> <li>• How to support your child with phonics <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8Oj6_6oJq8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8Oj6_6oJq8</a></li> <li>• How you pronounce the sounds <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Spelling support	Spell words, including HFWs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In my experience, one of the most effective spelling techniques is to support the child to devise their own memory aid. A very good video is below: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlmynlKBiAY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlmynlKBiAY</a></li> <li>- There are two sets of activities on twinkl for HFW spellings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first 100 HFW spelling activity book</li> <li>• The next 200 HFW spelling activity book</li> </ul> </li> <li>- 50 HFW mnemonic videos on Nessy (mentioned above)</li> </ul>
Memory skills	Develop visual/auditory memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Play online memory games at <a href="https://www.learninggamesforkids.com/memory-games.html">https://www.learninggamesforkids.com/memory-games.html</a></li> </ul>
Science/other subjects	Learn the key vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain the key vocabulary that needs revising or is coming up in future lessons and put them each into you tube and look for a good explanatory video</li> <li>- Practise spelling the word Then place the word in a subject divided folder and look at it once a day for week one, twice in week two and see if your child can read and explain the term to you when you write it, in week three. If not, revise it more frequently for another two weeks and test again. If your child can't spell the word, trial other spelling techniques until you find the best one for your child.</li> </ul>