



Supporting Writing at Home

Conjunctions (Joining Words)

and	but	or	yet	so
because	if	unless	as	although
after	eventually	next	then	first
finally	before	later	while	suddenly
therefore	consequently	even though	otherwise	since

When your children are writing at home, try to encourage them to use conjunctions to extend their sentences. There are different types of conjunctions (co-ordinating, sub-ordinating, time, causal) and we refer to these when we are teaching but as long as the children are using them we will be happy! You could also encourage your children to spot conjunctions when they are reading!

Openers

The...
My... I...

First... Then... If...
Next... Last... When
Because... Also... Last time...
After... Another thing... Soon...

Although... Before... Afterwards
Sometimes... Eventually...
After a while... Often... Another thing...

Never... Always... Besides... Even though/if... Before...
Meanwhile... Before very long... However... In addition...
Despite... An important thing... We always... If/then... I felt as...
I discovered... Having decided... I actually... Due to... As time went...

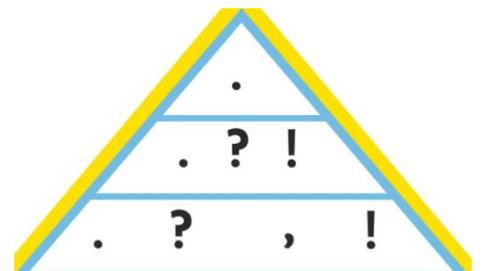
Use complex sentences appropriately.
Vary sentence length and word order to keep the reader interested.

We are also encouraging the children to use a range of sentence starters so their writing is varied and exciting!

Punctuation

We are also constantly talking about sentence punctuation, reminding children to use capital letters correctly and to use end punctuation - . ? !

We have also been talking about using commas to separate items in a list.





Supporting Reading at Home

Our aim is for all children to develop a love of reading. For this to happen children need to be able to recognise and read words (decode), and also understand what they are reading (comprehend). Below are some examples of questions you could use at home to develop reading skills.

To develop decoding skills (recognising and reading words):

- Do you see a word you know?
- What would make sense/sound right?
- Is it a word you already know?
- Can you blend the sounds in this part of the word?
- Can you see a word within the word?

To develop basic understanding and comprehension:

- Where/when did the story take place?
- Can you name three characters?
- Can you find the answer to my question on this page?
- Describe what happened when...
- Is this statement true or false?

To develop inference and deduction (reading between the lines):

- What do you think might happen next? Why?
- How did she/he feel when... How do you know?
- Can you describe *** in your own words?
- What might happen if... Why do you think this?
- What does the picture on this page tell you? What can you learn from it?

To develop awareness of text type (structure and features):

- What page can you find out about *** in this book?
- Can you use the contents page? Index? Glossary? Why are they useful?
- Why are certain words in bold/italic?
- Do you think this book will use photographs or illustrations? Why?

To develop understanding of language:

- What does this word/phrase mean?
- Which words tell us how this character is feeling? What words would you have used? Why?
- How does this word/phrase/sentence make you feel? How did the author achieve this?

To develop awareness of purpose (thinking about the author's choices):

- Why did the author choose this setting?
- What do you think the author's opinion of *** is? Why?
- Look at the caption/illustration/labels, why did the author include them?

To develop wider understanding (linking texts to the world):

- Can you think of another story with a similar theme?
- What can we learn about a different culture from this book?
- Do you know anyone who is like this character?
- Have you ever experienced anything similar? Where? When? Why?



Remember, reading should be fun – and any exposure to books is good!