

How we teach reading at Monkchester Road Nursery School and Playgroup

Reading is one of the most important lifelong skills that children will begin to develop while they are at Monkchester Road Nursery School and Playgroup. We actively teach the skills needed for children to become good readers as soon as they start at Nursery and Playgroup. We have a wide range of activities, strategies, resources and techniques to develop and improve our children's early reading skills and these are explained below.

First and foremost, we aim to instil a love of reading in our children so that they enjoy reading and choose to read for pleasure. We have a wide selection of 'Big Books' that staff read to children daily with fun stories and bright, colourful illustrations to engage and enthuse them. We try to teach reading through multisensory experiences to help children enjoy books and remember the important skills and knowledge needed for reading.

As well as reading to the children, we encourage them to share books with their friends. Comfy, 'Reading Corners' and 'Book Nooks' in every classroom invite the children to look at books and share them together. Staff choose books for their classrooms from our extensive Nursery and Playgroup Libraries. The Libraries are snug little rooms that children visit with staff in small groups to work quietly and search for books. The Libraries have many storybooks, dual language books and non-fiction texts so that children learn that they can find out information from books as well as enjoy them for pleasure. Each classroom has a 'Listening Centre' with a selection of stories and songs for the class to listen to in small groups with headphones. Children read sets of books to match the CD and taped stories, so they can read along with the story as they listen. We have a large variety of listening games and resources to encourage children's early listening skills that support the development of reading.

All around the Nursery and Playgroup, we have text asking children questions, making statements and giving information. We also have signs, labels, symbols and logos in the environment and encourage children to notice, recognise, read and understand these. These purposeful texts help children to read for meaning and understand that writing has a purpose to inform us. The texts around our setting contain some key words and phrases to help children read and recognise them in context.



Every day, as well as reading stories, children in our Nursery take part in a daily-dedicated session linked to pre-phonics activities. These activities teach children the skills of how to listen carefully and how to pay attention to the similarities and differences between different sounds. It prepares them for the phonic lessons they will begin in their Reception classes. We use these sessions to help children understand the different sounds in words too and how to pronounce them. As children develop their skills, they learn that words are broken down in to sounds that match to letters (and groups of letters). Those children, who are ready, move on to recognising and matching some letters of the alphabet to their corresponding sound. We introduce the sounds of letters first rather than their names as the sounds support them as they learn how to decode texts and develop into independent readers later on.



Before children begin matching letters to sounds, we use our daily-dedicated sessions to help them learn about sounds around them so that they can spot the differences and differentiate between many sounds. In these sessions, we also teach children about the rhythm in words, about rhyme and alliteration. Children will learn and join in with many songs, jingles and rhymes while they are with us. They will develop their own repertoire of Nursery rhymes and Maths rhymes to help them learn skills to help them read.

We teach children to understand the five key concepts about print:

- print has meaning
- print can have different purposes
- we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom
- the names of different parts of a book
- how pages are sequenced in books



In classrooms, staff plan topic themes around books to support children to understand the structure of stories and we have 'Story Sacks' that help children to learn and rehearse the order and sequence of favourite stories.

Once a week, children in nursery have the chance to take home a Maths Pack and a Reading Sack. Children can keep these at home for the week to share with their families. We encourage parents to take part in this 'Reading At Home Scheme' as it helps children to understand the importance of reading and children learn they can enjoy books at home and at school. Taking books home to share and look after prepares children for reading at home more regularly in their Reception class.

We have special days and events when we invite parents in to Nursery regularly to share books with their children. Our classes particularly like reading books they have made themselves with their keyworkers. Book making is a key aspect of our learning to read programme as it helps children to recognise the links between reading and writing.

We include non-fiction texts around our classrooms so that reading becomes part of all areas of our curriculum. We use ICT such as classroom computers, Smartboards and iPads to help children to learn that reading is useful for finding out information on computers as well as from books.



Playgroup

In Playgroup, we have daily-dedicated nursery rhyme time where we use a number of puppets and props to encourage and engage the children. With the use of nursery rhymes, children have the opportunity to practice their language skills including pitch, volume and rhythm whilst extending their vocabulary and use of words. Nursery rhymes are a great way of introducing early phonics such as being able to hear, identify and say letter sounds.

Children gain early experience of stories through nursery rhymes as they follow a sequence of events, as they have a beginning, middle and end just like a story in a book and by giving

our children the opportunities to practice these rhymes we offer the experience of sequencing events, which are skills needed for future reading.

Playgroup children have a wide range of stories and books to look at with staff. Keyworkers read to children at least once a day and use a variety of puppets, story sacks and other toys to bring stories to life. A beautiful story area in the playgroup lobby provides a cosy and stimulating environment for small groups to enjoy stories together.

Children in playgroup also have the chance to take a Nursery Rhyme Pack and Book Pack home once a week to share with parents/carers and the wider family so everyone can get involved.

Our Core Books

Each Class of 2 year olds, 3 year olds and 4 year olds has their own set of 'Core Books' that they learn throughout the year. Staff have chosen these books for a variety of different reasons to give children an excellent grounding in traditional and more modern stories from many cultures.

Our 'Core Books' include wonderful illustrations to engage children. Some of the stories rhyme and others have lots of repetition to encourage children to join in. Children will read these core books over and over again, so they can learn them and feel confident joining in when staff read them aloud.

More information about Core Books is available on our website – see 'Our Core Books' to find out this year's selection for your child.

