



LITERACY TIPS



ONLINE

The BBC has excellent interactive videos & resources to get to grips with reading, writing, spelling, grammar and reading & listening



www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english



CONVERSATIONS

At mealtimes, ask each other about your day. Get better responses by avoiding questions with yes/no answers, and trying 'second-level' questioning:

Q. What did you enjoy doing today? A. Art.
Q. What was it about Art that you liked doing? A. We were using acrylic paints to draw pictures in the style of Picasso...



READ BY EXAMPLE

Whether it's a recipe, newspaper or magazine, children typically imitate the habits of older people in the family. So pick up a good book for a Sunday afternoon read!



GET BLOGGING

Sit together and start a great blog about the special events such as holidays. They encourage a reflective mindset and are a great record to refer back to in the future. **Top Tip:** make sure that your child does not post inappropriate information!

Example
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<http://neverseconds.blogspot.com>



HAVE A LAUGH!

Buy a good clean joke book and share jokes over the dinner table. Avoid using the web where jokes may be age-inappropriate.



E-BOOKS

Encourage gadget-loving reticent readers. Some feature inbuilt dictionaries making it quick and easy to look up unfamiliar words. Starting at around £29.



READING BOOKS

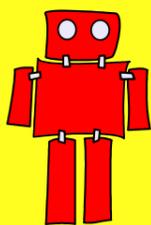
Every secondary school student should be able to engage in a suitable reading book. The key to this is finding a book of interest. You could start by showing an age-appropriate film and then finding similar books, for example:

Alex Ryder/*Stormbreaker* Anthony Horowitz
Bend it like Beckham Narinder Dhami
Goal! Robert Rigby
Harry Potter series JK Rowling

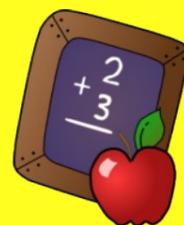


PLAY GAMES

Taboo, Scrabble, Hangman, Articulate! Boggle. Don't forget to *read* the rules first!



NUMERACY TIPS



MENTAL ARITHMETIC

Encourage children to do basic maths in their head.

For example: Your bedtime is 9 O'clock. It's 7:30 now, how long 'til bed time?



BUDGETING

Giving pocket money can be a very effective way to help children appreciate the value of money and to plan for future purchases.



GET ONLINE

The BBC has excellent interactive videos & resources to get to grips with numbers, calculations, percentages, measuring, shapes and graphs.



www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/maths



TOYS AND GAMES

Monopoly, Risk!, Yahtzee, Chess, Card games, Lego



PROGRAMMING

Make cool computer games using Scratch!

<http://scratch.mit.edu>



ESTIMATION

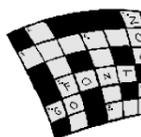
Ask: How long will it take to... How far is it to... How much will I need to...



SHOPPING

Using real daily events to practise numeracy skills is very important.

Go Compare! Get your children to mentally calculate the difference in price between products. Bring 'size' and 'quality' into the discussions about what to purchase.



PUZZLES

Wordsearches, Crosswords and Sudoku are great ways to encourage problem solving skills. Puzzles are great for journeys. Why not find puzzles and challenge each other?



COMPUTER GAMES

Develop problem-solving skills and spatial awareness with age-appropriate games. Agree an acceptable "gaming time" limit! E.g.: "The Sims" - a modelling program that involves short-term and longer-term goals. Brain Training, Worms Armageddon strategy game, Rollercoaster Tycoon or similar)