

Y3 English Reading

Reading at home should focus on building fluency, expanding vocabulary, and deepening comprehension through daily practice. The most actionable steps include listening to your child read aloud, asking targeted questions about the text, and encouraging them to explain their reasoning using textual evidence.

Top Tips for Home Reading

- **Read Daily & Discuss:** Aim for short, daily reading sessions (10-15 minutes). Ask your child to retell what they just read in their own words to ensure they understand the plot and character motivations.
- **Dig into Comprehension:** Don't just focus on word-reading. Ask "how" and "why" questions, such as:
 - *"How did the character's feelings change?"*
 - *"Which words or phrases tell us more about the setting?"*
 - *"How do you know that? Can you show me?"*
- **Spot Punctuation & New Words:** Encourage your child to pay attention to punctuation (like commas, question marks, and speech marks) for better fluency. Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words and try using them in new sentences together.
- **Explore Non-Fiction:** Don't limit reading to fiction. Read non-fiction texts (like magazines or encyclopaedias) and explore features like labels, diagrams, charts, contents pages, and the index.
- **Maintain the Reading Diary:** Keep a record of their reading and ensure diaries are filled in as expected by school.

Useful websites below:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games/>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families>

Y3 English Writing

Writing at home involves shifting from short sentences to structured paragraphs, building descriptive vocabulary, and practicing cursive handwriting. The most effective strategy is to combine regular reading with fun, everyday writing tasks that make communication feel purposeful.

Key Skills to Focus On

- **Paragraphing:** Encourage grouping related ideas together (e.g., one paragraph for a character's appearance, another for what they do).
- **Sentence Building:** Teach your child to use conjunctions (e.g., *because, although, while, however*) to link ideas and make sentences longer and more descriptive.
- **Vocabulary Enhancement:** Challenge them to use "magical" adjectives and powerful verbs instead of basic words (e.g., replacing "the dog walked" with "the colossal hound prowled").
- **Handwriting:** Practice diagonal and horizontal strokes to begin joining letters, ensuring spacing is neat and letters are even in size.

Fun Writing Activities

- **First-Person Diaries:** Have them write a diary entry or recount about a fun day out, a weekend activity, or from the perspective of their favourite book character.
- **Instruction Guides:** Ask them to write a step-by-step guide on how to bake a cake, make a cup of tea, or even how to play a favourite board game.
- **Adventure Stories:** Create "Story Mountains". Map out a beginning (setting the scene), a middle (a problem or adventure), and an end (the resolution) before they start writing.
- **Newspaper Reports:** Have them write an exciting newspaper article about a dramatic fictional event—like a dragon landing in the garden or a mysterious time-travel machine discovered in the attic.

Practical Home Tips

- **Talk It Out First:** Before writing, have your child talk through their ideas aloud. This helps them rehearse their sentences and gets the creative juices flowing.
- **Scribing:** If they struggle with the physical act of writing or spelling, act as their "scribe" by writing down their great ideas for them. You can also try dictation apps or let them type out sections on a tablet.

- **Use Models:** Let them look at other books or stories as a model for their own writing so they can copy styles and structures they like.

Useful websites below:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-writing/>

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/writing>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/index>

<https://storywritingacademy.com/writing-prompt-generator-kids/>