

Helping your child with their English at home

In order to help your child make the best progress, it's important to work with them at home and encourage them to practise and use English as much as possible. Studies show that parental involvement has a significant positive impact on student outcomes throughout their school years. Here are some ideas and suggestions you can use.

- Ask them about their lessons, what they enjoyed or what they learned. You can play 'the English lesson', in which your child is the English teacher and you are the student, and the child is teaching you songs and words in English. If they don't want to talk about what they did in class, you can play a guessing game, in which you're trying to guess what they did (a song, games, drawing, writing practice, and so on).
- Use the resources on the British Council microsite for parents and carers, to practise the words and the songs at home. Your child can teach you the movements for the songs.
- Ask your child about the stories done in class, what happened in the story and what words in English they can remember.
- Read them books in English. Our library has a wide choice of storybooks and graded readers, suitable for students at all levels. Just ask at the library for guidance.
- Alternatively, use story websites where they can watch, read and listen to children's stories. There are more and more authors, teachers and parents who post videos of themselves reading stories in English on YouTube, which can be a useful resource if you don't have access to the original story books.
- If you like drawing, painting or doing crafts with your child, whenever you make something new, you can encourage your child to say what it is in English, and depending on what they have learned so far, if it's big or small, what colour it is, what it's got, what it can do and so on.
- Play games using pictures from old magazines with your child. Use the pictures from the parent information worksheet for that unit. You can cut out the pictures into mini-cards and play various games with them, or, if you want, you can use similar images on Google and print them out.
- You can play a variety of games to revise the vocabulary done in class. You can find on our microsite lots of games ideas you can try.
- To revise the songs done in class, you can download the song files from our microsite, or find links to the YouTube videos, when available, in the parent information worksheets. You can find on our microsite ideas of fun activities you can try using songs.
- Also, you can have a 5 o'clock tea party once a week when you speak English, sing songs in English or read a story in English. If your child is reluctant to speak English to you, don't force him/ her, but try reading stories or singing songs in English instead.

- Children learn effectively through games, stories and songs. Use the British Council websites and apps with them:
 - **LearnEnglish Kids:** Find lots of fun learning activities that parents can do online with their children, as well as worksheets they can download, print and colour/do offline:
www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishkids
 - **Parents section:** There is also a parents section with lots of tips and advice:
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/parents>
 - **British Council apps:** Download British Council and LearnEnglish Kids apps:
<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/apps>

There are also lots of other websites that can help children develop their English. However, please note that the British Council is not responsible for the content of external sites.

- www.supersimplelearning.com
- <http://mapleleaflearning.com/>
- <http://thekiboomers.com/>
- <http://chuchutv.com/>
- <https://www.uspstudios.co/>
- www.twinkl.co.uk
- www.kidsopia.com
- www.sproutonline.com
- www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html
- www.bbc.co.uk/wales/bobinogs/games/gamespage.shtml
- www.starfall.com/
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1
- www.nickjr.com
- www.jumpstart.com/parents/games/learning-games
- www.pbskids.org

Finally, when working with your child, try not to worry about your own level of English, and keep expectations of your child realistic. Remember to always be supportive, give your child lots of praise, and of course have fun together!