



FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Pound Avenue
Stevenage
Hertfordshire
SG1 3JA**

Headteacher: Mr Robert Staples BA (Hons)
Tel: (01438) 351053 Fax: (01438) 750116 E-mail: admin@fairlands.herts.sch.uk www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

HOME LEARNING

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

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What is the home learning environment and why does it matter?

The Home Learning Environment (HLE) is the physical home and the interactions in and around the home which implicitly and explicitly support a child’s learning.

The quality of the HLE is a key predictor of a child’s early language ability and future success; positive experiences can have lasting and life changing impacts.

Early language ability is consistently linked to later outcomes – including school attainment and job prospects.

Children raised in middle and upper-income homes are more likely to experience a language-rich environment. By contrast, children from low-income homes are more likely to arrive at school with below-average language skills, leaving them at an educational disadvantage from the start.

But this is not inevitable. All parents have the power to change outcomes for their children, no matter what their background.

How do we support parents and carers in creating a positive HLE

We believe that the partnership between home and school will help your child improve their performance and raise standards.

We ask you to:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| CHAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child lots of questions. • Constantly try to engage your child in conversation. • Make mealtimes sociable • Let your child help around the home, and talk as they do • Encourage your child to play and talk when you’re with other adults or family members. |
| PLAY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play with your child every day. • Have rough and tumble play. • Spend time playing outdoors every day. • Make a list of all the fun things you can do with your child. |
| READ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend time reading with your child every day, all the way up to Year 6. |

and..

- Please read the Home Learning Flyer and Curriculum Information Booklets and ensure all activities are carried out.
- Please fill in your child’s Reading Record every time you read with them
- Provide a quiet place for your child to engage in some types of home learning.
- Please let the teacher know immediately if you are concerned that your child is getting overwhelmed or distressed by home learning.

HOME LEARNING FROM SCHOOL

CHECK the Home Learning Flyer, and Curriculum Information Booklet for suggested activities!

Chat, Play & Read with your child, every day...

Nursery & Reception

- **Daily sharing of reading activities, including Bug Club**
- **Weekly letter sounds / phonics**
- **Activities based around key words / number skills**
- **Weekly suggested activity relating to classroom learning**
- **Finding and bringing in topic related objects**
- **Games Library**

Years 1 to 6

- **Daily sharing of reading activities, including Bug Club**
- **Weekly spellings / phonics**
- **Weekly Maths “Learn-Its!”**
- **Games Library**
- **At least once a half term, an optional extended project linked to current learning and children’s interests**

10 top tips for creating a strong home learning environment:

1. **Spend time reading with your baby or child every day.** Before bedtime is ideal, when you can have some relaxed fun time with your child, but if another time of day is better for you then that's good too. Try to get into character and be enthusiastic about the stories and poems. It's great if you ask them questions about the story or the pictures on the page, and to guess what might happen next. They will soon become your child's favourites. Visit your local library to borrow a great range of children's books for free.
2. **Ask your child lots of questions.** If your baby is too young to answer, pretend that they have answered your question, and give an enthusiastic response! It is never too early to start chatting to your baby – they may not be responding but they will be learning. Ask about their favourite toy, game, friend, song or book. Ask about what happens when they're out, how they're feeling and what they want to play. Tell your child all about your world, and about things you love.
3. **Play with your child every day.** It doesn't have to be for long chunks of time – you can build moments into your daily routine, and during that time try to be happy and fun. Whilst you're playing, make a big effort not to lead the game, give advice, judge or criticise your child. If you're not sure what to do, just give a running commentary of what your child is doing. It will make their play feel important.
4. **Constantly try to engage your child in conversation.** Talk about what is going on. Describe what you see. Read signs and talk about what is going on around you. Face to face chats are best, but you can have some great conversations on the bus or walking side by side. If your child is too young to talk, pretend their babble or noises make perfect sense to you, and have a full-blown conversation.
5. **Have rough and tumble play.** Children love to be chased and picked up. Physical play helps children learn about their own strength, and deal with difficult emotions and anxieties, so do whatever your child finds fun and exciting. Affection during play, such as hugs, hair ruffles and pats on the back, are a great way to show your child that you love them and build an even stronger bond between you.
6. **Make mealtimes sociable.** When your child is eating, sit at the table with them. Talk about anything and everything. Keep toys and electronics away from the meal table, so you can really enjoy some one-to-one time. As your child grows older, ask lots of fun questions to find out more about your child's world.
7. **Let your child help around the home.** When you are cooking, cleaning or shopping, get your child involved. Give your child a list of items when shopping, let them help you weigh ingredients, and give them a duster to help you clean. Although it may take a little longer, you will have a lot more fun doing tasks. Your child will not only learn how to help out, they will benefit from extra time talking and interacting with you.
8. **Spend time playing outdoors every day.** Children need fresh air and exercise, and benefit from being introduced to different environments, so try to let them enjoy the great outdoors and new experiences. Point at new things and tell them the names of what you can see. Children smile and laugh a lot more when playing outdoors. Your child can wear a raincoat and boots if it's raining.
9. **Encourage your child to play and talk when you're with other adults or family members.** When you're socialising with friends or family, try to include your child in conversations. Children learn by absorbing information through daily interactions. If the grandparents are over, or other friends and family members, ensure your child spends time with them, let them tell your child a story or talk about a particular subject. Learning at home is something that the whole family can be involved with!
10. **Make a list of all the fun things you can do with your child.** So, you can refer to it when you're short of ideas. Your list can include anything from ball games; making up a story where your child is the hero or heroine; creating a den with bedsheets and sofa cushions; going for a night walk with torches: having a water or pillow fight: reading poems or books in funny accents: or even putting on some music and having a family disco! You'll be creating great memories for your child and having lots of fun too.