We always say "I CAN"

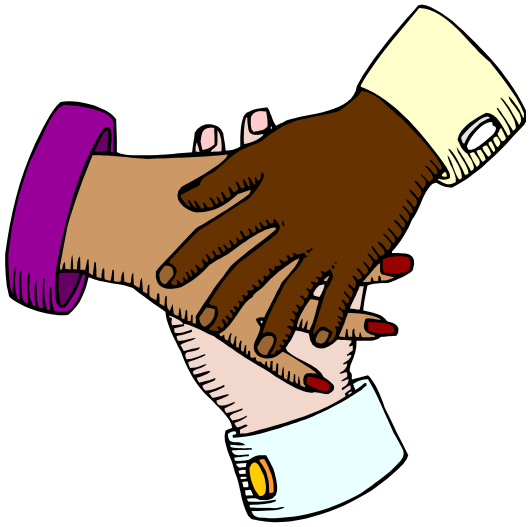
Reinwood
Infant & Nursery School

Fun Ideas to try at home

The job of educating is a never-ending one. It begins before a child comes to school and continues long after they have left the classroom. At Reinwood, we particularly value the parent/school partnership and recognise it as being a key factor in developing a child's learning, allowing them to reach their true potential.

The home can be a very rich learning environment. This booklet has been put together to provide you with some ideas on how you can support what your child is learning in school.

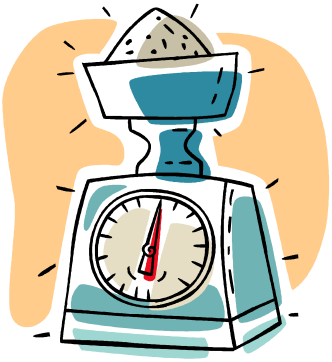
We realise that all the activities listed below require time and the most important way you can help your child is simply by talking to them.



Out and about

The old favourites are still amongst the best!

- Read car number plates.
- How many cars can you count of a particular colour?
- Look for house numbers – which are odd/even?
- Count anything (lampposts, steps, cars, windows, doors, people with red coats on – the list is endless)!
- Look at the prices on food.
- Make shopping lists.
- Compare heavy and light food at the supermarket.
- Weigh food at the supermarket.
- Look for shapes - (in houses, road signs etc.)



➢ Pick out words in signs.

In the garden

Predict where minibeasts might live and go on a 'minibeast hunt'.

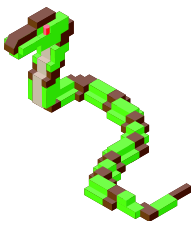
Make a collage picture from stones, twigs and pebbles.

Have their own part of the garden to plant seeds and look after them.

Games

Commercially-produced games can provide a hidden rich source of experiences for your child. Here are a few examples:

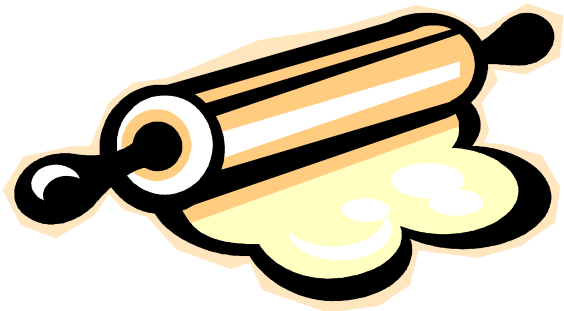
- Playing cards – number recognition, counting, adding, taking away, colour and shape recognition.
- Dominoes – counting, adding, matching.
- Snakes and Ladders - number recognition, counting on, addition and subtraction.
- Operation, Buckaroo etc. – hand/eye co-ordination, fine motor skills.



Of course, all games teach the essential life skills of sharing and turn taking.

Baking

This provides lots of opportunities for counting, weighing, measuring, looking at the changes in substances, reading, sequencing, following instructions.



Newspapers and magazines

These provide a rich source of activities and the cutting involved will develop fine motor skills, which will, in turn, develop your child's handwriting skills. Try some of these activities:

- Make a colour book by cutting out pictures of objects the same colour.
- Make a number book – write a different number on each page and encourage your child to cut out the correct number of objects to stick on each page.
- Make a sound book – write a different letter on each page and encourage your child to cut out pictures of things beginning with particular letters.
- Make collections of cut-out letters.
- Cut out letters and stick together to make words.
- Make collage pictures.
- Make collections of things your child likes.

Puzzle books

There are now many books that can be purchased that teach your child how to write letters and numbers - but don't forget -

- Dot-to-dot – these help your child with number recognition and order, spacial awareness and pencil control.

- Colouring books – these help with spacial awareness and pencil control.

The value of questions

Opportunity to ask questions and take things apart – finding out how objects work - e.g. torches! Take the opportunity to ask your child lots of questions when you are out and about. Can they explain what they can see around them?

The computer

There are many commercially-produced programs for the computer. However, if you have access to the internet, **www.bbc.co.uk/schools** is an excellent site that has many useful games in a range of subjects that are suitable for your child. Another good one is Oxford Owl.

Starting school is a significant moment in a child's life. You may be wondering how you can best help your child to become more independent. This page tells you about the skills you can encourage in your child, to give him/her the best chance of getting off to a flying start.

Getting Dressed

We encourage all our children to take their own coats, jumpers, shoes and socks on and off. Children get changed every week for PE, so they need to be able to fasten their own trousers, dresses and shirts, zips and buttons. It is a great source of pride to a child when s/he learns to do this. Allowing your child to dress or undress for school in the morning and for bed in the evening will help him/her develop these skills.

Arriving at school

Children are encouraged to hang up their own coats, recognise their own names and put their labels on the self-registration lunchtime board.

Using the toilet

Children need to be able to ask for the toilet when they need it and use it without adult support. They need to be able to wash and dry their hands when necessary.

“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”