



Basic Skills Literacy Workshop




What does Literacy involve?

- **Phonics**
- **Writing** - Sentence Structure
- Composition & Effect
- Handwriting
- **Reading**
- How can parents help?



What's all this about Phonics?

- What is phonics? – segmenting & blending
- Letters & Sounds – 6 phase approach
- Tricky Words
- Phoneme frames
- Emergent writing or poor spelling?
- Enjoyment



Writing- Sentence Structure and Composition & Effect

- **Sentence structure** - punctuation !? “ ” , ...full stops & capital letters – correct grammar, word order, sentence openings, sequencing words, compound sentences – use of connectives ,e.g. when, but, after.
- **Composition & Effect** – adjectives, description, detail, dialogue, precise and adventurous word choices, narrator’s viewpoint, attempts to create interest, humour.

Handwriting

- School handwriting style
- NB 't' and 'f' not crossed right through
- Pencil grip, pencil control
- Handwriting books
- Individual letters taught first, in order, according to shape
- 4 basic joins –
 - diagonal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. *ai, ar, un*
 - Horizontal joins to letters without ascenders e.g. *ou, vi, wi*
 - Diagonal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. *ab, ul, it*
 - Horizontal joins to letters with ascenders e.g. *ol, wh, ot*

Reading

- knowledge of context (using pictures);
- word recognition (especially for tricky words);
- knowledge of the sound/spelling system of the language (phonics);
- knowledge of grammar (Does it make sense?).
- Comprehension and enjoyment, not just barking at print!



How can parents help?

- Hear children read regularly— enjoy and discuss books with your child .
- Help them to get into good habits – correct pencil grip, forming letters correctly, using punctuation.
- Encourage children to have a go at spelling and praise achievements – especially when using sounds that they know.
- Have high expectations – expect more than the minimum.