

:: St Margaret's PS and Nursery Class

Early Level-Active Literacy::

*Building Strong Partnerships Between Staff, Pupils, Parents/Carers
and the Wider School Community*

*Vision, Values and Ethos in
St. Margaret's Primary School
and Nursery Class*

We are striving to build a community which reflects a happy, secure and caring environment where all stakeholders: Staff, Pupils, Parents/Carers and the Wider school Community are Valued, Motivated and Encouraged to be the Best They Can Be ... We strive to ensure this ideal.

Active Literacy-How does it work?

- Two new letter sounds are introduced each week
- (e.g. s, a, t, p, i, n), then one blend is introduced per week (e.g. sh, th).
- Each sound is introduced with a song and action and the letter formation is demonstrated and practised.
- As each sound is introduced, children are encouraged to make simple CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words containing the new sound e.g. cat, bin. It is important that they follow the strategy that they have been taught which is represented by 'The Hand'.



The Hand:

1. **SAY**-Ask your child, 'Can you say the word cat?'
2. **MAKE/BREAK**
 - Continue, 'Can you make the word cat with your letters?'
 - 'Do you know what letter comes first?'
 - Your child should choose the appropriate letters and make the word.
3. **BLEND**-Ask your child to sound out the letters by running their finger below the letters and your child should then blend the sounds together to make the word.
4. **READ**-Ask your child to read the word cat.
5. **WRITE**-Ask your child to write the word below it.

Spelling- How does it work?

- During an Active Literacy session there will be daily whole class teaching and pupil interaction using a variety of resources including whiteboards, games, sand trays, shaving foam etc.

How can I help?

It would be great if you could talk to your child and get them to explain to you what letter sound/blend they are learning. By explaining what they are doing it will help your child to become fully familiar with the methods.

Initially, homework tasks will be based around revision and consolidation of letters. When the blends are introduced, you and your child make words with the given blends. We would encourage you to use the steps linked to 'The Hand' above.

What is an Elkonin box?

Elkonin Boxes help to split phonetically spelled words into sounds. They let the pupils take words and investigate what sounds they can hear in a word. The following example shows how we use Elkonin boxes and, hopefully, gives an idea of why it is important to use knowledge of sounds to help spelling. English is a tricky language to learn! For example, fish would be written.

f	i	sh
---	---	----

While it may appear difficult at first, this method helps children to become familiar with sounds and blends they recognise in even the most difficult of spelling words. It is a technique which will be taught in class, practised regularly and then applied in their day to day writing.

As your child progresses through the school they will become skilled at using these techniques. You will have the opportunity to see this in action at our Literacy Learning Event later on this session.

We hope you have found this helpful.

