

### Useful Ideas....

- Fill zip lock bags with a small amount of paint and cornflour, encourage your children to make marks using their fingers.
- Help your child develop their pincer grip by providing opportunities for them eg: sorting small items such as buttons or 1p coins, picking up rice etc...
- Try having alphabet spaghetti for dinner and encourage children to recognise the letters.
- Hide magnetic letters in jelly and ask your child to find them
- Try rolling , squeezing and stretching items such as playdough (see recipe below).

### Playdough—Ingredients:

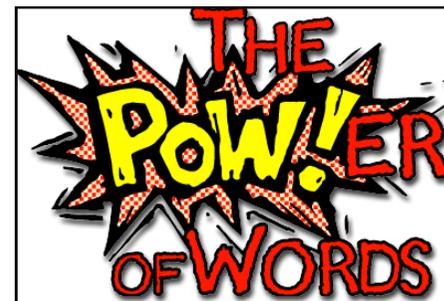
1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt, 1 cup water, 1 Tablespoon oil,  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar, food colouring

### Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a pan and stir. Cook over a low heat, stirring until a ball forms.



## Having Fun With English at Home



## Writing

Writing includes all forms of making marks and can be lots of fun. Multi-sensory and physical activities to copy patterns and words are great motivators ! Use fingers and paintbrushes in paint, sand, foam, PVA glue mixed with foam and glitter or even paint brushes with water on the pavement.

When exploring patterns, letters and words use tracing and dot-to-dot so students begin to use their muscle memory. Start big for example creating large letter shapes on A3 paper using paint and then reduce as many children will find the fine motor skills of writing difficult.

It is important to provide a reason for writing to foster a relevance and enthusiasm for writing. Examples of this could be writing their names on greetings cards or thank you letters. Use symbols and pictures to support with your child's writing—after you have read a story using pictures from the story and ask them to order them. Extend this by asking them to create a sentence to accompany the picture and describe what is happening.

Remember emerging writing comes in lots of forms - encourage and be enthusiastic about what your child produces so that they will want to write more often.



## Reading

Reading to your children is an incredibly powerful tool.

Allow them to be involved in picking a story from a selection and explore classical fairy tales, picture books, poetry and non-fiction to give your children a real range of reading experiences.

Stories with a repetitive rhyme or sentence are fantastic to motivate children joining in with reading. Stop short and ask them to continue the story without you on the repeated phrase or try putting the wrong word in and see if they correct you! .

Using timetables with photographs and symbols introduces learners to familiar words through repetition such as their own names and that of their family, days of the week, locations and activities.

When you are out and about involve children in reading signs, symbols, brand labels and names of shops or restaurants such as 'Can you go and get the...', 'which shop are we going to ?'

Using alphabet songs and activities (there are lots for free on YouTube!) encourage learners to recognise different letter shapes and their sounds. Play matching or sorting games focusing on different sounds and letters.

