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 **Helping children to read and write**

**There are lots of ways you can support your child with**

 **reading and writing at home.**

1. Speaking like Fred helps children to understand that words are made up of sounds. Use Fred Talk throughout the day to help your child practise blending sounds together. (See Fred talk games)
2. Rapid recall of set 1 and set 2 phonemes- Point to the sounds in and out of order on the charts. Remember that two letters make one sound, as do three letters, they make one sound too. We refer to the 2 and 3 letters being special friends. (See RWI speed sound charts)
3. Encourage your child to practise forming letters, saying the RWI phrase as he/she writes. E.g. writing **m**say the rhyme **Maisie mountain, mountain** (See RWI handwriting phrases)
4. When writing encourage your child to squeeze the sounds of the word they are writing on their Fred fingers, then write the word. For example if they want to write the word cat, they will squeeze 3 fingers, saying the sounds c-a-t as they squeeze each finger. Then the children write the sounds, c-a-t.
5. Once children learn to read they need regular practise to become fluent readers. Try to set aside 10 minutes each day to hear your child read their reading book and practise their phonics. By the end of reception, children should be able to instantly recognize ALL set 1 and set 2 sounds and read them in words.

***Top Tip:*** *Short regular sessions are much more rewarding than infrequent long sessions. Reception age children have a concentration span of about 8-10 minutes.*