

# How can I help my child develop their **reading**, **writing**, **listening** and **talking** skills?

## Reading

Provide access to quality newspapers/fiction books/websites  
e.g. *The Scotsman*, *The Guardian*, BBC Bitesize

- ✓ Explore news websites together and discuss articles which interest your child. Explain any new words/ideas.
- ✓ Encourage 20 minutes of reading each night - read with them
- ✓ Visit your local library
- ✓ Let them see you reading

## Writing

- ✓ Encourage your child to read their writing to you. Give feedback highlighting key strengths and next steps.
- ✓ Encourage your child to proofread for errors in spelling, punctuation and expression.
- ✓ Encourage use of websites/Apps to help writing i.e. <http://sentencechecker.com/>, dictionary/thesaurus Apps.
- ✓ Ensure they are using their class notes/plans for written tasks

## Listening

- ✓ Listen to good quality programmes on TV/radio/internet with your child. Ask them questions about what they've listened to.
- ✓ Give suggestions for things they might be interested in listening to/watching i.e. a particular news story or documentary
- ✓ Ask them about interesting things they've listened to on apps/social media websites that they already use i.e. Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat. A lot of newspapers etc. have social media pages/apps

## Talking

- ✓ Discuss with them the different texts/topics they are studying in different subjects (novel, documentary, film, science report, website)
- ✓ Ask them to sum up the main points in articles they've read
- ✓ Talk through homework tasks
- ✓ Discuss S1 English Course Booklet (available on school website under Student Docs)
- ✓ Allow them to practise a presentation/talk in front of you. Feedback on strengths/next steps i.e. eye contact, clear voice
- ✓ Encourage child to communicate concerns/questions to teacher
- ✓ Discuss feedback from Parents' Evenings

