We all want to support and help our children to do their best. For young people whose learning needs are diverse it can be difficult as parents and carers to know the best ways to help.

Many parents and carers have asked me how they can support their child’s learning and have asked for ideas on how to support mainly English.

I have put this booklet together to give ideas on things that can be done at home. Not all suggestions will be suitable for your child but hopefully a few may help.

Have Fun 😊

Regards
Mrs M Irving
Reading and writing

Point out words around you. On the bus, in the car, at the supermarket or from things in the kitchen cupboard.

Activity - Make a little shopping list of things you know you have. - Can they find the beans; carrots; sardines; whatever you have. When they find them they tick them off. You can do this at the shops too.

Activities - Spend five minutes making a list. How many of these can they find in the house?

Word building - A toilet roll - a trip to pound land for a glue stick. Could be fun?
**Pre- readers** - Sit with your child and encourage them to follow as you read to them. Ask your child about the pictures and encourage them to tell you what’s happening.

Use dual - language books if English isn’t your family’s first language. Lots of these are available in libraries.

Try to find books and reading material on topics that your son, daughter is interested in. e.g. football, cooking, animals.

**Activity**

An idea that can be fun - Get an old box, a shoe box is great.
(Lots of shoe shops will give you one for free).
This becomes their - treasure box - or their project box depending on age.

Decorate it if you/they want.

You can go on a treasure hunt outside or in the house. Fill it with ‘stuff’.

- Write some letters or words on scrap paper.
- They can empty the box and link the letter or word to the object.
- You can add more objects and more letters and words as you go.
- Children can add their own ‘treasures’ or objects of interest.
- When out and about you can remind them of their box.
Developing Reading and writing
It’s Saturday, it’s raining. They are fed up, you are trying to do the ironing. What can you do?
Get help from the junk mail.

Activities
A take away menu
Write their ideal menu...

Higher Activities
If you can bear it, collect all the junk mail up.

Can your child put them in alphabetical order?
Sort them into groups?
e.g. Adverts for insurance: Estate agents: shop adverts.
Can they say what they think?

Is the writing clear?
Is information accurate?
Are pictures appropriate?
How could it be made better?
Which one is best?

Could they design or make a better one?

Can they present ideas at tea time?
Developing creativity is not always an easy task.

Activity - If your child has read a book they liked then they can:

- Write what will happen next.
- Write what happened before.

Choose a character and put them in another story they know. 
*e.g. A fairy princess in Spider man.*  
*Sherlock Holmes in Cinderella.*  
Your child could write the opening. They could interview a character.  
Write questions with pretend answers based on what they know about the character.

If visual learners and for fun. Go back to the good old shoe box. The shoe box can become the: ‘scene’; ‘fact’; ‘what if’ box.

Your child could:

- Act out scenes and then write about them.
- Be the editor of a fashion (Car, Football) magazine. Ask them to review the contents of the box.
- Think of words you would not expect to go with the picture and then use them to write about it.
- Use question words to help them.


# This can also be used to link to topics in different subjects to help them to expand answers e.g. food in World War II
Starting to Write - Words

As with reading this is usually taught by using sounds. The activities for reading can be used to support writing.
Find objects and label them with the correct first letter/word.
Once pupils have learnt the letters they can then start to put them together to build words using sounds.

e.g. c a t  Encourage pupils to sound out as they go.

As many words are not spelt the same way as they sound this is the time
when many mistakes will be made. That’s okay and expected. You want
them to gain confidence.
Encourage child to write the correct first letter.
Next go for the correct middle and end sounds.

Ask your child to read what they have written back to you. Get them to point as they go so the words written match the ones they say.
Activities to encourage writing could be:

Writing a shopping list.
Making a list of toys/books.
Writing a list of questions to ask grandma.
Write about something they have seen on television.
Making a scrap book about a topic of interest. Write about each picture they stick in.
Writing -

Starting to Write - Letters

First of all pupils need to develop the use of their fine motor skills and develop the ability to form different lines. It's handy to have a wipe clean board for this but it can be done on any type of paper. Write/Draw some different lines and ask them to go over them. Once Your child has been able to do this then ask them to copy the lines. e.g.

Think about the letters in their name. Which lines do they need to make? Get them to produce each line needed and then to join the lines to make the letter. Encourage your child to say the sounds as they write.
If you have access to the Internet there are lots of sites with different types of games and activities to support reading and writing.

Here are just some:

http://www.kidsfront.com/word-picture-match.html
http://www.enchantedlearning.com/alphabet/matchwordsandpix/
http://kidsfront.com/match-pictures/
http://www.schoolsparks.com/kindergarten-worksheets/category/visual-discrimination-matching-pictures-to-shadows
http://www.edhelper.com/dolch_sightwords_primer.htm
http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/printable-word-shapes-worksheets/
http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/spelling/
http://worksheetgenius.com/

Tracing worksheets:
http://www.handwritingworksheets.com/
http://www.kidslearningstation.com/tracing-lines/
//www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/trace.htm

Compiled from: http://theautismhelper.com
http://bild.org and the Dyslexia Association

This is also a great place for online educational games but as with all things on the World Wide Web I advise that you should check them out first to make sure the games are suitable for your child.

http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/index.html By Mandy Barrow