

Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH)

Be specific in your praise. Rather than 'That's good' say 'I like the word 'giant' because...' or 'Well done for working out that 2+2=4 by...'

If you are not sure what the child can/cannot yet do, talk to their teacher. If school is new, take it slowly. Start with things that are too easy to build confidence.

If today is stressful—leave it until tomorrow!

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Please read our separate leaflet on supporting children with extra needs. Talk to school about any concerns you have regarding your child's development. Ask the teacher to set up a way of communicating that keeps everyone in the loop.

How to contact us:

virtualschool
@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

01223 699883

[www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/
school-improvement/
cambridgeshires-virtual-school-
for-looked-after-children](http://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/school-improvement/cambridgeshires-virtual-school-for-looked-after-children)

Our other leaflets give information on a wide range of further topics such as the PEP, SEN, Attendance & Exclusions. Please go to our website.



Search for
Cambridgeshire
Virtual School



Cambridgeshire Virtual School

Cambridgeshire Virtual School

How to help with learning **Key Stage 2**

For Foster Carers & their Social Workers



Cambridgeshire Virtual School



Reading

Reading involves two skills: decoding (phonics) and comprehension (understanding what has been read).

By age 7 the basics of decoding should be in place (if not talk to school about what you can do to help) so the focus should be on comprehension.

Hearing a child read for 5 minutes a day is better than 30 minutes once a week. Take some time to talk about the story & ask them questions. If there's a word they cannot read, you can read it for them to keep the story flowing.

Foster a love of stories: watch movies—talk about the plot & characters, listen to audio books when in the car, make up stories together.



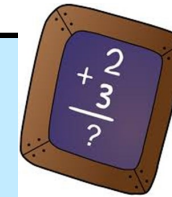
Writing

Writing involves three skills: thinking what to say (content), thinking how to say it (choice of words) and the mechanics of handwriting.

Handwriting needs lots of practice. Check with school which handwriting style they are using and try to stick to that. Help your child to hold their pencil correctly and give them lots of opportunities to draw, paint and write.

Due to limited life experiences, these children often have little to express in their writing. Help them start a diary/journal (this can feed into Life Story work). Maybe write for them initially whilst they draw a picture. Over time encourage them to write. Help them to write not just what happened that day but how they felt.

Play word games to improve vocabulary (word searches, crosswords, board games). Teach them how to tell jokes!



Maths

Maths involves being able to think logically and in steps. It also needs lots of practice to embed in long term memory.

Board games, card games & dice games are the best way to improve mental maths. Ask others for some suggestions of what to buy.

Lots of schools now have Apps/ Websites that link home learning to what is being taught in school. Ask the class teacher what is available and encourage your child to do a little each day.

Use 'Growth Mindset' talk: 'You can't do it YET. But with practice...'

Remember Maths isn't just numbers. Look out for opportunities to talk about shapes, time, measuring, angles and co-ordinates. Cooking involves most of this!