

### PSS English Activity Ideas for Parents/Carers – Part 3

Pupil and School Support (PSS) are qualified teachers who support children and young people in educational settings who have learning difficulties.

These leaflets have been created to offer suggestions for support to parents and carers during the COVID-19 crisis.

You can help your child to increase their vocabulary, to read a range of texts fluently and to organise their work into paragraphs, whilst interesting the reader and writing at a reasonable speed.



Use post-it notes and paper to create flashcards to play games with. These could be key topic words or words they struggle to read or spell. You could get your child to make word cards.

Listen to audio books – there are a lot of free books online including the world of David Walliams. If you have the book, try to follow along, reading the words as you listen.

Write key words on post-it notes or pieces of paper and play 'swat the sight word'. Read out a word - how quickly can they find it? If there are 2 players see who can be first to swat the correct word.

Play bingo with key words, instead of numbers.

Play 'matching pairs' with word cards, take it in turns to turn over 2 word cards. Who can match the most pairs? Or create word and meaning cards – match a word to its meaning to win the pair of cards.

Check they understand all of the words they read. If they don't know what a word means, ask them to look it up in a dictionary or online. You could use this information to make a picture glossary/dictionary to help them to remember what they mean. This will help them to understand technical vocabulary

#### Glossary

**laptop:** a small computer you can use on your lap

**desktop:** a large computer you use on a desk

**keyboard:** the buttons on a computer with letters and numbers

Asks them to complete word searches or cross words in newspapers and magazines.

Read and create comic books. Use speech bubbles to think about the use of direct speech.

Try acting out a favourite book, poem or play.

Talk to your child about their favourite books and authors and share your favourites too.



## Writing:

Play board games to develop vocabulary skills like 20 questions, articulate, Taboo or scattergories.

Have a mini-quiz: 'How many words can you think of instead of 'said'?' or 'went', 'nice', 'good'. Use each one in a sentence.

You could write letters or emails to relatives. Encourage them to use some of their new and interesting vocabulary.

Ask them to keep a diary of what they do each day, or a food and exercise diary – they could record their thoughts and feelings. Encourage them to use a range of sentence structures and include speech and descriptions.

Encourage your child to help with real life writing tasks using time words e.g. instructions for household tasks/recipes or looking after a pet (**Firstly** feed the cat **before** you let her outside, give the dog biscuits **whilst** you are out for a walk, **after that** you will need to give him a bath).

Film reviews – if you watch and film or documentary ask them to write a summary and/or a review. They could also write a book review.

They could write a news article about current events. Pretend they are a news reporter or a journalist. They could interview members of their family and create an article or newspaper.

## Spelling:

Mark my work: Show them a word spelt three different ways (only one spelt correctly) see if they can find the correct spelling.

Write a word with some part of the word or some of the letters missing, ask your child to complete the word.

Talk to your child about the words they are learning to spell, ensure that they know what they mean, see if they can:

- Write the word (by sounding it out)
- Write a sentence with that word in it
- Draw a picture for the word/sentence

Play games like hangman and scrabble to practise spelling.

Use some of the key words they have been learning to spell.

Use letters tiles to play unscramble my spelling or a countdown game – what words can you create with these letters?

