



## **Supporting Your Child with Language, Literacy and Communication (Primary) for pupils in Welsh language settings with parents who do not speak Welsh**

While schools are closed, teachers will be making sure that you have advice and support on how to help your child with language, literacy and communication skills. Your child's teacher will be the best source of advice. Many of these learning opportunities provided will be about consolidating what they already know and practicing skills. Developing language and literacy skills takes time so don't feel you have to do it all. Take the lead from your child.

The most important thing you can do is encourage them to speak Welsh as much as they can and to read and write Welsh when they have a purpose to do so. Being able to read in Welsh, to express themselves in Welsh and to write creatively in Welsh can contribute greatly to your child's emotional health and wellbeing. It is important to encourage your child to keep in contact with Welsh speaking teachers and friends and also to give them daily exposure to the Welsh language as this is what they would have been doing in school.

Make the most of opportunities to include language in learning opportunities *and* in your daily activities, encouraging your child to develop their creativity.

To improve their communication skills in all languages, you can practise along with them and have fun speaking in languages that are familiar to them.

Each of the stages outlined represents a significant period in your child's learning journey, so there is no expectation to move your child *through* these phases. Practising and consolidating within your child's identified phase is what's important right now.

## **Starting Out**

### **Speaking and Listening**

When your child is beginning to talk, they will mainly do this to satisfy a need. This will include their emotional needs.

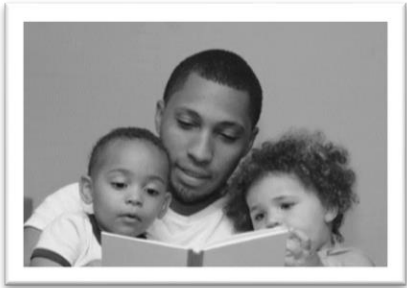
If your child is:

- Beginning to be aware that when they speak someone is listening
- Sing familiar songs
- Listen to stories being read to them
- Recognise vocabulary to do with their daily routine
- Ask basic questions and repeat some words and phrases
- Able to give a simple description of something that they have done

You can help by:

- Encourage them to tell stories and talk about what they've been doing
- Supporting them to give simple explanations and instructions and to listen to family members doing the same
- Getting your child to share with you what they already know in Welsh, so that you can enjoy learning together. This may include greetings, naming objects, saying how they feel or describing the weather.
- Giving your child opportunities to hear, see and sing Welsh songs and stories which are available on many digital platforms.

## Reading



The first stage of reading for very young children begins when they show an interest in books. If your child is:

- Holding a book the right way up and turning pages
- Looking at the words and pictures and beginning to talk about what they see
- Able to understand that print carries a message
- Starting to make links with what they see in the books and what happens in their own life

You can help by:

- Encouraging your child's enjoyment of reading in Welsh
- Encouraging them to talk about the Welsh book and what they think of it in your home language
- Using picture books with limited or no words that your child can *read* themselves
- Showing your child how to follow the words left to right and top to bottom and leave a space between words
- Making the most of the opportunity to read with your child in Welsh

## Writing

Very young children learn through play. When your child is playing, you can help them to see that written symbols are part of language. You may find that they begin to make marks on paper and that as they start to recognise letters the marks they make will often look like letters from the alphabet but will be unlikely, at first, to spell a word. One of the first words they will learn to write will be their own name and you can encourage them to practise this.

If your child is:

- Pointing to words in a book
- Attempting to form letters
- Attempting to write from left to right



You can help by:

- Showing them how to read what you or they have written
- Encouraging your child to 'have a go'
- Writing *with* them and letting them know 'who' they are writing for – give them a reason to write
- Showing their writing to others in the family and celebrating their attempts

### **Moving On from early Welsh language learning**

As children move on with their language skills, they will begin to become aware of the part language plays in shaping their identity, beginning to understand their culture and developing a sense of belonging.

### **Speaking and Listening**

When children start to explore language, they will show a better grasp of how to say things in Welsh correctly. They will understand that talk is how they make themselves understood and express how they feel.

If your child is:

- Able to participate in and contribute to conversations in Welsh
- Aware that sometimes how you speak might be different in different situations e.g. the use of *ti* and *chi*
- If your child is extending their speech by including details such as who, what, where and when
- Asking questions to find out, and explaining what they think

You can help by:

- Practising Welsh through the activities set by your child's school.
- Continuing to enjoy sharing songs, rhymes, poems and stories and pointing out any patterns
- Supporting them to listen to others with growing attention
- Giving your child opportunities to speak to other people, including those outside the family whenever possible
- Making the most of all opportunities to talk *with* your child, to share their ideas, to retell stories and to give and receive instructions
- Listening to them chatting about their day

## Reading

As your child begins to use what they remember of familiar books to match some spoken words to written words they will start to realise that print carries a message and will be more able to point to words. They will sometimes comment on the pictures without being asked.

If your child is (when reading in Welsh):

- Focusing on the meaning of a story rather than reading accurately
- Using what they know of the text *and* their personal experience to make sense of what they are reading
- Able to recognise familiar words they see regularly about the home or locality
- Able to match some spoken words to the correct written words

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to talk about any Welsh reading activities the school is providing



- Encouraging them to read aloud in Welsh and asking them about what some of the words and phrases mean.
- Encouraging your child's interest in and enjoyment of reading in Welsh
- Encouraging them to talk in your home language about what they are reading in Welsh,
- Aiming to sit with them while they read in Welsh **every day**

## Writing

As your child becomes more aware that what someone says can also be written down, and that there is a correct way to do this, they can begin to experiment with writing words.

If your child is (in Welsh):

- Reading back what they have written in their own words
- Starting to write simple lists or stories
- Sounding out some of the words they want to spell
- Beginning to write using familiar words and phrases

You can help by:

- Helping them to create a picture dictionary
- Getting them to use Welsh online spelling and grammar activities that they use in school
- Encouraging them to complete tasks set by the school making full use of the resources provided
- Making sure they are writing these from left to right across the page.

**fi**

A handwritten cursive 'fi' in black ink. The 'f' has a tall ascender and a short descender, while the 'i' has a tall ascender and a dot.

**ti**

A handwritten cursive 'ti' in black ink. The 't' has a tall ascender and a long descender, while the 'i' has a tall ascender and a dot.

**ydw**

A handwritten cursive 'ydw' in black ink. The 'y' has a tall ascender and a long descender, the 'd' has a tall ascender and a loop, and the 'w' has a tall ascender and a long descender.

## **Moving On towards independence**

### **Speaking and Listening**

Your child will start to speak appropriately in different situations as they take control of their talk. They will recognise international languages spoken.

If your child is (in Welsh):

- Adapting their talk in different situations, including the volume and pace
- Using gestures along with speech
- Choosing the words they use carefully e.g. to describe something
- Able to retell a story or events in sequence
- Able to get involved in group conversations
- Able to appreciate that the Welsh language, along with the other languages that they speak, is part of their culture and identity

You can help by:

- Continuing to give them lots of opportunities to listen and to respond to stories, songs and poems in Welsh from either resources provided by schools or from online digital platforms
- Finding activities to do together where they can practise using their Welsh in a wide range of contexts e.g. maths activities, Welsh fitness classes online, Stwnsh on S4C/clic
- Encouraging your child to find new, more advanced words to use in their talk by using online dictionaries and games
- Give them the opportunity to practise speaking other languages they know or are learning e.g. English, Polish, French
- Encouraging your child to seek out opportunities to practise their Welsh with friends or family members online

## Reading

You will find that as your child makes progress they will begin to read unfamiliar texts slowly and deliberately, focusing on getting every word right.

If your child is (in Welsh):

- Starting to read books they know with confidence and fluency
- Able to retell stories and recounts from books with both pictures and words
- Discussing what Welsh texts they have read throughout the week e.g. letters, lists, recipes, stories etc.
- Aware of what an author does

You can help by:

- Talking about the ideas and information in books and finding out what your child understands from what they have read
- Encouraging your child to use reading strategies they use in school. These could include re-reading, self-correcting, finding similar words, chunking (splitting the word into smaller parts)
- Encouraging your child to enjoy reading in Welsh, sometimes independently and to try out books they wouldn't normally choose to read
- Making sure they read in Welsh **every day** and share your own enjoyment of reading

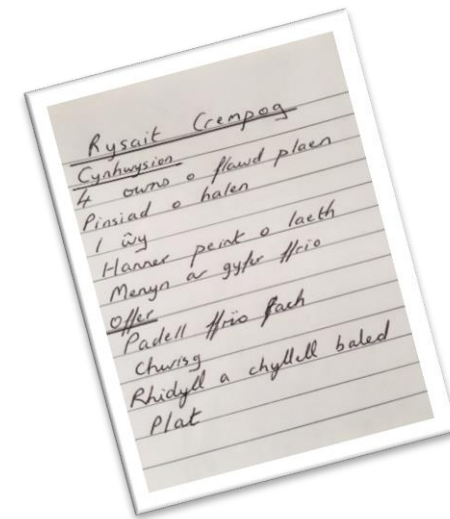
## Writing

When your child has a growing awareness of how a sentence is constructed and why spelling and punctuation are important, they will want to write about things they are interested in. Don't expect them to get everything right all the time though!

If your child is (in Welsh):



- Writing in a range of texts such as stories, invitations, instructions
- Writing about their interests
- Using basic sentence structures
- Talking about what they are writing and who they are writing it for
- Beginning to write about things they have some experience of and using relevant vocabulary
- Starting to edit what they have written to make it better
- Using some punctuation such as full stops and capital letters



You can help by:

- Encouraging them to complete tasks set from school, making full use of resources suggested and provided
- Expanding their choice of reading in all languages so that they are exposed to a wider range of text types and vocabulary such as letters, diaries and news reports
- Helping them to plan their writing before they begin and to think about how they can improve it when finished
- Show them how to create paragraphs in longer pieces of writing
- Encourage them to use some strategies for spelling words that they use in school or by using online dictionaries
- Encouraging them to use their own imagination to write stories

## **Moving on and Gaining Independence**

## **Speaking and Listening**

You will have information about your child's progress in Welsh from their school.

When your child is becoming an independent Welsh speaker, they will use a wider range of vocabulary in different situations. The activities suggested at the last stage will be equally appropriate at this stage of learning.

If your child is:

- Sharing their ideas, offering advice and opinions, and responding to others' contributions
- Adapting how they speak and what they say in different situations e.g. talk is not the same in storytelling as in interviewing
- Able to report on and describe aspects of the things they learn about from their own point of view
- Developing their thinking to come to conclusions and justify their decisions
- Listening to others and drawing conclusions from what they say

The activities suggested at the previous stage will also be suitable at this stage of learning. Your child will continue to progress in Welsh by increased exposure to the language and will gain confidence to use a wider range of vocabulary and structures.

You can help them further by:

- Encouraging your child to watch age-appropriate Welsh videos and television programmes. You can discuss with them in the language of your home what they've seen and heard.
- Giving them opportunities, in Welsh, to talk about their experiences during the day and encouraging them to use vocabulary that fits with the subject matter; your child could record this and send it to their teacher/friend.
- Continue to encourage your child to seek out opportunities to practise their Welsh with friends or family members online

## **Reading**

As your child begins to become an independent reader, they will use a number of reading strategies and adapt their reading to the text they are reading.

If your child is:

- Using their knowledge of text, e.g. letter, report, instructions etc. to help them understand the meaning of what they read
- Able to retell and discuss with you in the language of your own home, what they read including reference to plot, characters and main ideas
- Able to choose reading strategies which they have learned in school to help them when they don't understand words or meanings in the text

You can help by:

- Discussing the effects of what your child reads in Welsh on how they think or feel in the language of your home
- Encouraging your child to compare what they are reading in Welsh with other texts they have read
- Encouraging your child to enjoy reading in Welsh, encouraging them to explore a wider variety of texts
- Listen to them reading in Welsh **every day**



## **Writing**

When your child begins to take control of their writing, they are likely to be able to choose what type of text to use for a particular purpose. Although they will need less support at this stage, they will probably still make mistakes with punctuation and spelling.

If your child in Welsh is:

- Able to choose texts appropriate to the purpose of the task
- Writing in a wider range of text types including stories, reports and explanations
- Using a variety of sentence structures and creating paragraphs
- Selecting interesting vocabulary
- Editing what they have written to make it more effective
- Using basic punctuation accurately, including question marks, commas and apostrophes

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to complete tasks set from school, making full use of resources suggested and provided
- Encouraging them to write in Welsh, both narrative and non-narrative pieces (fiction and non-fiction)
- Showing them how to link paragraphs together appropriately
- Modelling a wider range of connectives, such as: os, wedyn, ers hynny, o ganlyniad,
- Encouraging them to be more independent
- Supporting them to develop accurate punctuation and spelling and pay attention to mutations

**Successfully Independent**



## **Speaking and Listening**

At this stage, your child will be more able to adapt their talk in Welsh to suit a much wider range of situations independently.

If your child, in Welsh, is:

- Able to sustain a conversation, discussion or argument
- Able to gauge whether the listener has understood their viewpoint
- Able to come to conclusions and make an inference about what someone else says
- Able to express what they think and how they reached that conclusion
- Able to talk about both concrete and abstract ideas

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to take part in more challenging conversations, with Welsh speaking friends and family members
- Encouraging them to use specialist vocabulary associated with the subject matter, using online dictionaries and thesauruses
- Creating opportunities for them to communicate with others in Welsh using various technology and digital platforms
- Continuing to value talking *with* your child about thoughts and feelings in the language of your home

## **Reading**

At this stage, children will be reading purposefully and with little hesitation, using a number of strategies when unsure of the meaning of what they read. They will make connections between what they already know and what is new to them and will sometimes question the accuracy of information.

If your child is:

- Beginning to discuss the structure and purpose of what they are reading in Welsh
- Able to understand Welsh texts that are not within their experience or interest
- Starting to use a wide range of strategies to help them understand what they are reading, e.g. predicting, self-correcting, slowing down, substituting (using a possible alternative)
- Able to recognise most words by sight, including some tricky ones
- Efficiently using what they know about letters and sounds to read unfamiliar words: using initial letters, using patterns and parts of words, blending sounds and breaking words into segments

You can help by:

- Continuing to explore a wider range of unfamiliar words in Welsh and looking at where those words have their origins
- Continuing to encourage your child to enjoy reading in Welsh and to be more confident in choosing from a wide range of books and texts
- Listen to them reading in Welsh **every day** and sharing your own enjoyment of reading
- Encouraging your child to share their opinion with you on what they have read in Welsh
- Suggesting opportunities to write in Welsh in a similar style as the books or texts they are reading

**Writing**

At this stage, your child will be able to write in a personal style independently and control text types accordingly. They will have control over spelling and punctuation, use a wide range of vocabulary and write coherently to engage the reader.

If your child is:

- Able to make decisions about what text type to use for each task
- Able to clearly explain their work and reflect on how they have done
- Refining and developing ideas as they go along
- Organising their work into paragraphs accurately
- Using vocabulary precisely
- Editing during the writing process as well as when they have finished writing
- Using a wide variety of punctuation and some mutations accurately



You can help by:

- Encouraging them to complete tasks set from school, making full use of resources suggested and provided
- Encouraging your child to analyse other author's Welsh writing when there is an opportunity e.g. online news, magazines, factual texts, stories
- Continuing to support your child to share their writing with others

**Moving from Primary to Secondary**

When your child moves from primary school to secondary school they will build upon the skills previously learnt and continue to use them across the curriculum.

### **Speaking and Listening (Oracy)**

Your child by now will be at least bilingual, able to express themselves clearly in Welsh, English and perhaps another language. Speaking with your child in the language of your home will improve their communication skills, which will support their learning of Welsh and other languages.

If your child is:

- Talking to you about their thoughts and feelings about moving to comprehensive and the changes they will face
- Talking about current affairs and watching news reports in both Welsh and English
- Expressing their thoughts and ideas
- Talking to friends on social media
- Orally rehearsing written work
- Using appropriate vocabulary to discuss and evaluate their written work

You can help by:

- Listening to them and reassuring them that they will be supported by staff in their new school, and by suggesting that they discuss their thoughts and feelings in Welsh with their friends and teachers
- Discussing openly what they are seeing or hearing using appropriate language
- Encouraging them to continue to seek out opportunities to practise their spoken Welsh
- Praise their ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings in Welsh, English and perhaps another language

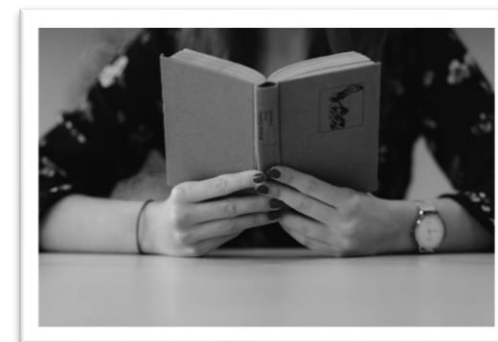
### **Reading**



When children become 'readers' it is sometimes difficult to maintain enthusiasm for daily reading but this is a crucial time to make sure your child reads Welsh regularly. Some children will need no encouragement to do this while others may need some guidance as to the types of things they could read to ensure it does not become a chore.

If your child is:

- A fluent, confident and independent reader
- Eager to read non-fiction books (information books, newspapers, sports magazines, etc.)
- Able to read between the lines and infer meaning from a text
- Reading a newspaper article or on-line article to gather information
- Reading thought-provoking fiction



You can help by:

- Encouraging your child to continue reading a range of texts in Welsh **every day**
- Not worrying if your child does not enjoy fiction. Some children prefer information books
- Discussing what they have read with them, asking them to give reasons for their responses to the texts
- Encouraging them to consider whether the information is from a reliable source
- Asking them about the characters - can they empathise with them; relate to them, can this be seen in real life?
- Being a good role model - talking about what you are reading and having books around the home

## Writing

By this time, many children will be used to writing for a range of purposes, to inform, instruct, persuade, empathise, narrate etc. and these will develop further with increasing sophistication, clarity and vocabulary. They will write for a range of audiences using punctuation, grammar, mutations and spelling accurately and for effect. They will have learnt to do this in school in both Welsh and English.

If your child is:

- Writing about topics and events with increasing sophistication and knowledge
- Appropriately planning their written work for a particular purpose or audience
- Proof- reading, self-editing and presenting their work
- Writing fiction independently
- Linking their reading and oracy to their written work

You can help by:

- Encouraging them to use strategies learned at school in order to check and improve their written work in Welsh
- Encouraging them to develop their range of vocabulary and to vary their sentence structure
- Talking about connections with other work across the curriculum and in their own lives
- Celebrating the time and effort put into creating written work in both Welsh and English

