

## Junior and senior infants 1

A summary of your child's learning in junior and senior infants in the 6 curriculum areas is provided below, along with some suggestions on how you can support your child's learning at home.

### LANGUAGE

Through language, your child learns to communicate in English and in Irish. Your child learns to listen, to speak, to read and to write in both languages. These language skills provide a basis for learning other languages and are important for learning in all other areas of the curriculum.

The Language Curriculum emphasises **developing listening and speaking skills in preparation for beginning reading and writing**. Through listening and speaking activities, children learn new words, to think and to talk about their thoughts and feelings. They also learn to listen to each other.

Children become more aware of letters and words when they see writing all around them, for example, on the classroom walls and in the class library. Children listen to and create stories from big books (large books with big pictures and text) with the teacher and other children. This gives them the chance to talk about the story and to ask and answer questions. From these early activities, **your child learns important messages about reading and writing**; he/she learns that words run from left to right on a page and have meaning, and that pictures help to tell a story. Children also learn that different letters have different sounds by playing rhyming games with words and by using their listening skills to hear different sounds in words. **Making marks, scribbling, drawing and painting with paint, crayons, pencils, pens and chalk, also helps your child to begin reading and writing.**

Your child will start reading graded books chosen with the teacher, and will learn to form letters correctly and be encouraged to write short pieces, when he/she is ready to do so.



Waiting until your child is ready, helps your child to experience greater success in reading and writing right from the beginning. On the other hand, if your child begins before he/she is ready to do so, he/she may not experience that same success.

**You can help your child to learn at home by:**

- singing songs, nursery and counting rhymes in both languages with your child and encouraging your child to teach you songs and rhymes that he/she has been learning in school. Children love action rhymes so help your child to make up actions to go with the words or ask your child to show you actions he/she has learned
- bringing your child to the library and sharing books with your child, for example, ask your child to predict what the story will be about from looking at the picture on the front cover
- listening to and talking with your child and encouraging him/her to tell you more about different things that interest him/her, for example, what his/her favourite toys are and why.

### Information for parents