

Working at level 7 in English

Children will be able to do many of the following:

Speaking and listening

- operate confidently in a wide range of formal and informal situations
- understand clearly both what is said and implied
- engage with speakers and their ideas, for example, offering ideas in a formal debate
- use a range of strategies to ensure successful group collaboration
- use drama techniques in collaboration with others to explore complex ideas and feelings
- evaluate the impact of the way people speak.

Reading

- summarise and synthesise information succinctly from varied sources
- develop clear personal interpretations of texts based on close reference
- explore different interpretations of a text

- analyse and evaluate how the writer seeks to influence the reader by:
 - the way the text is organised
 - the language used
 - the viewpoint expressed
- analyse how a text relates to others like it and to its context.

Writing

- engage and sustain the reader's interest in writing for a wide range of purposes and audiences
- develop a distinctive individual voice
- adapt and control their style and level of formality
- use a range of devices to organise their material and position the reader
- demonstrate craft in the way they select vocabulary and shape sentences and paragraphs to achieve specific effects
- evaluate the success or effectiveness of their writing.

What you can do at home to help your child make progress

Speaking and listening

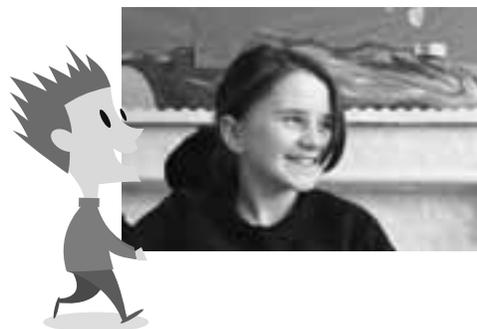
- encourage them to take part in formal debates
- take advantage of opportunities to participate in workshops or study days organised by local theatres, colleges or universities
- discuss the impact of different accents or dialects that can be heard in the media.

Reading

- provide opportunities to include important literature from the past as well as contemporary fiction in their reading diet
- encourage them to talk more formally about what they read, for example, through a book club at school or on the web.

Writing

- encourage them to write to influence people through posting or emailing their reactions and ideas on current affairs and local issues, for example, emailing politicians, commenting or having their own blog, writing for a community, sports or other interest group newsletter or website
- encourage them to continue to write for pleasure in whatever form they enjoy and experiment further, for example:
 - extend fiction writing to drafting a script for a play or film
 - find opportunities to talk with authors or journalists about their craft through writers' websites
 - write and publish critical reviews, for example, of films, video or computer games, sporting events.



What you can do at home to help your child make progress

Build on all the things suggested for level 7 and in addition, you might consider the following.

Speaking and listening

- encourage creative work such as script writing, film making and podcasting through online writing communities or clubs
- support taking part in master classes and enrichment activities to challenge and engage their abilities, for example, youth theatre summer schools.

Reading

- talk to them about how themes or images relate to either the author's purpose or the effect on the audience
- encourage them to read widely, both fiction and non-fiction
- challenge them in their choices of what they read and their interpretations.

Writing

- justify their writing choices and whether they thought them effective. For example, why did they choose particular vocabulary or adopt a certain tone?
- discuss alternative choices they might have made and what their impact might have been
- explore links with their reading by asking them whether and how their writing has been influenced by anything they have read.

If your child is in Key Stage 3 working at level 8 or EP they are likely to be supported by gifted and talented provision in school or elsewhere. Talk to your child's teachers to find out more.