



# EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>



**OPEN ATHLETICS EVENTS**  
**AN INTRODUCTION TO EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOL ATHLETICS.**

**SATURDAY 7TH & 21ST MAY**  
**10:00**

**FRIDAY 13TH MAY 16:30**  
**FOLLOWED BY A BBQ**

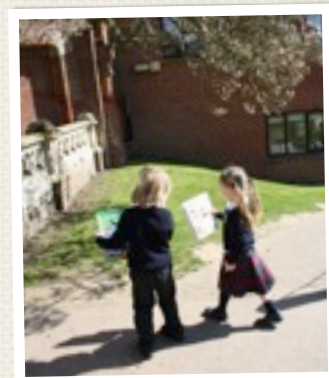
**COME AND JOIN US**  
**ON THE SPORTS FIELD**

## 'Reading, reading everywhere'



*Reading, reading everywhere,  
 On a sofa, in a chair.  
 On the bus or in a plane,  
 In the car or on the train.  
 You can read a magazine,  
 Or any leaflet that you've seen.  
 Reading here or reading there,  
 Reading, reading everywhere!*

*(Poem written by Miss G Moxon)*



If you want to raise a reader it helps to be one. Young children like to imitate the words and actions of older children and adults. It is how they learn to speak and how you can encourage them to read. Many parents read to their children at bedtime, which is a lovely calming down, shared time that you can both enjoy but reading should not just be kept to the bedtime routine. Reading is everywhere! We are surrounded by print of various kinds everywhere we go.

You can read magazines or comics, read the road signs as you drive, read the shopping list at the supermarket, leaflets in a waiting room, you can even read the back of the cereal box. The more children are exposed to text, the more they realise that those shapes that they are seeing actually mean something and can tell them information.



# EARLY YEARS IN FOCUS

<http://kentcollege.com/early-years>



Of course it is still valuable to read stories to your child and let your child see you reading. Try to have lots of different types of book in your house for your child to access: for example board books, picture books, even illustrated coffee-table books. Your local library is also an excellent way to encourage your child to read a variety of books and with most libraries having a dedicated children's area and special activities for children, they are worth a regular visit.

Once your child has started showing an awareness of the print around them, such as recognising familiar signs or pointing to the words in the story you are reading, you may want to start to introduce them to the names of the letters and the sounds that they make.

It is vital to teach your child the pure sound of each letter, for example "mmm" not "muh" for m. If you are not sure, there are several websites that have audio of the different pure sounds such as the Jolly Phonics website at [www.jollylearning.co.uk](http://www.jollylearning.co.uk). This is important when your child begins to blend the sounds in words to read, as without learning the pure sounds 'mat' becomes 'muh-a-tur' instead of 'm-a-t', which can make reading more difficult.

You can reinforce letter names and sounds while you are out and about. Playing games like 'I spy' will help children hear initial sounds in words. You can even extend this game by sounding the whole word i.e. 'I spy with my little eye a b-u-s.' Look at large letters that you see while out in the high street on different signs; M & S, EAT, McDonalds etc.

One of the first words most children learn to read is their own name. To help your child to begin to recognise their name you could print it out, and say it. Write it on a card for your child to keep in their pocket. Label every piece of artwork they make with their name in the corner. Put it in the upper left corner, so they learn to read from top to bottom and from left to right. Write their name inside their clothing, especially coats and outer wear that they might remove and leave behind. You could even make a name placemat with your child for the dinner table. To extend this further you could also start labelling familiar objects around the house so that your child begins to recognise other words as well.

(Article written by Miss G Moxon)