For information on the next level see
Understanding progress in English: a guide for parents

Working at level 2 in English

Children will be able to do many of the following:

Speaking and listening

- talk about things they have done and imagined
- remember the main ideas in things they have heard
- take turns when speaking in pairs or groups
- change the way they speak in some situations, for example, talking to adults differently from friends or pretending to be other people.

Reading

- read a range of key words on sight and blend sounds to decode unfamiliar words
- recall basic information from texts read, for example, names of characters
- look for information in print and on a website and make simple inferences, for example, how a character is feeling
- express simple likes and dislikes in their reading.

Writing

- have a clear purpose for their writing, for example, to tell a story, recount a visit, give instructions
- use some features of the style they choose to write in, for example, 'once upon a time' in a story
- organise their ideas straightforwardly, for example, by grouping ideas together in sections or sequencing events
- write mainly simple sentences, marking where they begin and end with full stops and capital letters.

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

Speaking and listening

- talk with them about their ideas, for example, when painting or modelling
- ask them to retell simple stories in their own words
- encourage their play in different roles
- listen together to stories on CDs, radio or television.

Reading

- read books together, reading a section in turn, and talk about:
  - what happened
  - how the pictures support the story
  - which parts they liked best
- encourage them to choose books independently
- encourage them to decode unfamiliar words independently, but prompt them if they lose the gist of what they're reading.

Writing

- encourage writing in play and what they do, for example, lists for shopping, record the results for their favourite sports team
- engage with their writing through:
  - saying what you liked in it
  - asking where their ideas have come from
  - asking them to show you where a sentence begins and ends
- help them to organise and sequence their writing by asking them to talk about their ideas or to draw a sequence of simple pictures to show how the main events in a story might be organised.