



Dear Parents,

We have put together a list of ideas and activities that you can do with your child at home to assist in building their Literacy skills.

Find ways to read, write and tell stories together with your child. The ideas below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader/writer. Try a new idea each week. See what works best for your child.

Literacy Team

LITERACY ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME FOR PREP – YEAR 2 STUDENTS			
Ask your child to talk about their day at school or things going on at home. Encourage them to explain something they did.	Connect what your child reads with what happens in life. If reading a book about beaches relate it to your last trip to the beach.	Have paper and pencils available for your child to use for writing.	Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game! "I'm thinking of a letter and it makes the sound sss."
Bring along a book any time your child has to wait, such as at a dentist's office. Always try to fit in reading!	Play word games, e.g. I Spy, what rhymes with cat, etc.	Children love to hear stories about their family. Talk about things that happened when you were young.	Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think Sam did that?"
Ask your child to help you write out the shopping list, a thank you note, or to keep a journal of special things that happen.	Make a book together.	Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems.	Make up stories while riding in the car. Take turns adding to the story.
Have your child create a writing checklist, e.g. Do all my sentences start with a capital letter?	Find smaller words within larger words.	When your child is trying to sound out an unknown word, give them time to do so. Remind your child to look at the first letter of the word.	As you read to your child, pause and ask your child about what is going on in the book and what they predict will happen next.
Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help children listen to the sound in words.	Point out the links between letters and sounds, e.g. Skipping starts with the same letter/sound as your name.	Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.	Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? s - a - t." Hold each sound longer than normal.

LITERACY ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME FOR YEAR 3 – 6 STUDENTS

<p>Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts.</p>	<p>Connect writing with your child’s passion. If your child is interested in mysteries, have them create a scavenger hunt with written clues to find a hidden treasure.</p>	<p>When you go on vacations, trips, or special outings, have your child record new sights and experiences from his/her journey.</p>	<p>Talk about everyday activities to build your child’s background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension.</p>
<p>Encourage your child when writing. Remind them that writing involves several steps. No one does it perfectly the first time.</p>	<p>Read different types of books to expose your child to different types of writing. Some children, especially boys, prefer non-fiction books.</p>	<p>Show your child how to summarise a story in a few sentences or how to make predictions about what might happen next. Both strategies help a child comprehend and remember.</p>	<p>Use the time spent in the car for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of?</p>
<p>Good readers think ahead to start to work out what might happen next. Encourage prediction by asking questions such as: <i>I wonder if ...will happen? Who do you think will ...?</i></p>	<p>Your child may be asked to investigate a topic or find answers to questions. Help them research by discussing where to look for the answers, reminding them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet.</p>	<p>Allow your child to observe you writing on your own. Take time to share your writing with him or her and talk about how you use writing in your personal and professional life. Show a variety of different written work such as a written letter or business communication.</p>	<p>Talking about stories, poems and information books can help your child to understand a book in different ways. Discuss any less obvious meanings.</p>
<p>Show your child that there are opportunities to share reading ideas and the excitement of reading, through a variety of clubs, groups, etc. Many of these are online, such as <b>Chatterbooks</b>.</p>	<p>Choose strong vocabulary words to learn at home for the week. Use these words in your daily oral vocabulary and written work. Words such as “obstacles” and “curious” are a great start. See if your child can use them both in a written story.</p>	<p>Share the variety of your reading with your child: books, magazines, websites and apps to show how reading can help you to follow your interests and to get involved.</p>	<p>Use technology to improve writing. Encourage your child to send an e-mail to a friend or publish a story online with a program such as <b>Little Bird Tales</b>.</p>
<p>Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series or to a second book by a favourite author.</p>	<p>Encourage writing for a variety of purposes. Your child could make a shopping list, write a fictional story or send a letter.</p>	<p>Let your child see you use a dictionary.</p>	