



Some ways to support your child's literacy learning at home...

Your child is unique, and will continue to develop as an individual, at an individual rate. Every child is able to learn, and will learn best when they feel supported, encouraged, and have an adult who spends time talking, listening, playing, and reading with them.

Here are some fun, everyday activities that you can do at home to help your child develop essential early literacy skills:

- ★ talk about **words** when you are out together (and at home):
 - ★ encourage your child to read words in the environment – on the street, at the shops...
 - ★ encourage your child to have a go at spelling words to you
 - ★ break words into syllables – clap out the number of syllables in words
 - ★ break words down into the sound that they can hear at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of words
- ★ play **word games** at home – crosswords, boggle, word sleuths, board games, electronic word games...
- ★ continue to have a special daily time at the dinner table where each person **takes turns** to share the best part of their day, while everyone else **listens**
- ★ continue to read with and to them every day. **Share** a special story at bedtime; make it something that you both look forward to at the end of the day! Sometimes, talk about the stories that you **read together**, and **sometimes just read for pleasure** – time spent together. Ask questions that require more than just a yes or no answer. “What characters were in the story” “Who did you like?” “What was that your favourite part?” “Why was that your favourite part?” ...
- ★ have them **retell** an event, or make up their own story – take turns to say what might happen next; and encourage them to sometimes write the story down – on a computer, on paper, as a cartoon...help them as they need it – keep it fun, not frustrating!
- ★ make a scrap book together and have your child write captions for the pictures, which could include:
 - ★ photos from a holiday or a visit to the zoo
 - ★ pictures from magazines of a certain theme (for example, pets)
- ★ continue to show that **writing serves a purpose** –
 - ★ write a shopping list for a special recipe, use the list to do the shopping, then cook and serve it together
- ★ continue to **think out loud** – it is a great way to ‘model’ to your child how you solve problems.

An informative website for parents is <http://det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou>