



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 with your child to help them develop essential early literacy skills:

- ★ play **word games** when you are out together – games such as “I spy”
- ★ 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**. Sometimes include time for everyone to take turns to **ask one question**
- ★ set up a place for your child to **paint and draw** – sometimes do it with them. Encourage them sometimes to write about their creation....but wait till the paint is dry!
- ★ read to them. **Share** a special story at bedtime; make it a relaxing time that you both look forward to at the end of the day!
- ★ encourage them to **retell** you an event or a story – “What happened first/at the beginning?” “What happened next?”
- ★ sometimes, talk about the stories that you **read together**. Ask questions that require more than just a yes or no answer. “What was that your favourite part?” “Why was that your favourite part?” ... These are called **open-ended questions**
- ★ have some dress-up clothes available for your child to use – ‘make believe’ gives your child an opportunity to practice their language and communication skills
- ★ show that **writing serves a purpose** - make a shopping list together (your child could draw a picture of some items next to the words); let them do a simple drawing or card, and mail it!
- ★ **think out loud** – it is a great way to ‘model’ to your child how you solve problems.

Some informative and fun websites to share together include:

<http://det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou>

<http://www.abc.net.au/abcforkids/sites/playschool/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>

<http://www.nickjr.com/games-activities/>

http://www.aussiechildcarenetwork.com/children_activities_and_games.php

<http://www.bestkidsapps.com/ages-0-4/best-ipad-apps-of-2010-for-preschoolers/>

<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/10-ipad-apps-preschoolers/>