

# Family Learning

## Literacy

Tips for parents – How to improve your child's reading, writing and language skills at home



Parents can do a lot to improve the reading, writing and language skills of their children at home. The following are some examples:

- Read to your child every day.
- Share family stories.
- Talk, talk, talk – your child learns about spoken words by listening to you.
- Read cereal boxes, tinned foods and cleaning material containers.
- Teach your child how to read warning labels.
- Play word games e.g. "I spy with my little eye, something that begins with..." (name a letter).
- Have your children's eyesight and hearing tested early and every year.
- Give books or magazines to your children as presents.
- Make sure that caregivers spend time talking with and reading to your child.
- Praise your child for work done well.
- Get library cards for the whole family and visit the library regularly.

## What your child should know in Grade 3:

The national curriculum describes what your child should be able to do and should know in every grade and for every subject, including outcomes for reading, writing and language skills.

For example, children in Grade 3 should be able to do the following:

- **Listen** attentively and respond to instructions.
- **Speak** about personal experiences and general news events; tell stories with a beginning, middle and end; converse politely and attentively.
- **Read** a story or a poem and show that they understand what they have read by answering questions accurately.
- **Write** one-or two-paragraph stories, letters or recipes; they should write clearly.
- **Plan** tasks by thinking about what must be done, why, how and by whom.
- **Spell correctly**, use spelling rules and understand how to use different kinds of sentences, e.g. questions, statements and commands.



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