

Help your child to learn by:

- ♥ Speaking and listening
- ♥ Reading and looking
- ♥ Drawing and writing



LITERACY is more than reading and writing.

It is about using language through:

- Speaking and listening
- Reading and viewing
- Drawing and writing

Literacy development begins in the family and continues in families and communities as well as children's services and schools.

How do you know your children are developing literacy skills?

You might see them:

- Talking to family members and friends, taking part in conversations, listening to others and replying, answering the phone
- Carrying out instructions such as "Come over here to me"
- Listening to stories, rhymes, riddles and jokes

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Families can help children develop speaking and listening skills by:

- Talking about what they are doing
- Talking about things that are funny, serious or sad
- Listening to stories children tell you
- Encouraging children in pretend play
- Talking in rhyme

- Speaking to children in their first language
- Listening to taped stories, songs or rhyme
- Talking about what you are going to do during the day
- Telling stories to children about when you were little
- Teaching children titles to use - eg Mrs, Mr, Dr, Ms, Auntie.
- Talk to your child about how far it is to travel to somewhere, either in time or distance.

READING AND VIEWING

Families can help children develop reading and viewing skills by:

- Letting children see you reading and viewing for different reasons - eg the newspaper for information, a book for fun, TV programs for information or a magazine for enjoyment and relaxation
- Playing looking games with children to help them notice details such as looking for signs with the first letter of their name
- Showing your child different sized packets in the supermarket and talking about them

- Pointing out food or clothing labels and reading them to your child
- Reading a rhyming story to your child
- Teaching children how to work the TV and video
- Helping children plan their TV viewing and explaining why there are rules about what they are and are not allowed to watch
- Reading magazines or catalogues with children
- Giving children opportunities to choose food from a menu
- Looking at the shape of the moon and talking about how it has changed
- Reading bus, train or other signs to your child.

DRAWING AND WRITING

Families can help children develop their drawing and writing skills by:

- Letting children see you drawing and writing for different reasons - eg paying bills, filling in a simple form, a letter to a friend or doodling on a piece of paper
- Letting children have the opportunity to draw and write on paper, in sand, on misty windows or on bark

- Letting children tell you stories about their drawings
- Talking about reasons for drawing and writing - eg "I'm writing a shopping list so I'll remember what to buy"
- Making a book with your child by stapling a few sheets of paper together and record special times - eg a birthday or name day, starting child care, preschool or school
- Giving children paper, pencils, textas, chalk, and pens to use
- Letting children practice using the computer
- Collect and sort shells, stones, leaves, gum nuts with your child
- Making a card for a special occasion with your child
- Making shadow shapes on the wall with your fingers and encourage your children to do the same
- Putting children's drawings and paintings on the fridge or on the wall.

Families can help their children's literacy development by telling staff in child care, preschool and school about their children's interests and the things their children can do. Sharing this information means that

staff can help your child's literacy development and give you information about your child's progress and how you can help.

Written by the South Australian Department of Education, Training and Employment.