

Families and Literacy

Overall, children develop stronger literacy skills when parents are involved.

Low literacy is an intergenerational cycle. Improving parent's skills directly positively affects the language development of children.

Children raised in educated households are likely to enter grade one with several thousand hours of pre-reading experience.

The skills and capacity to learn, that we develop before the age of 6, stay with us for a lifetime.

Children learn from imitation; they will become more interested in reading and writing when they see their parents, grandparents and older siblings doing so on a regular basis.

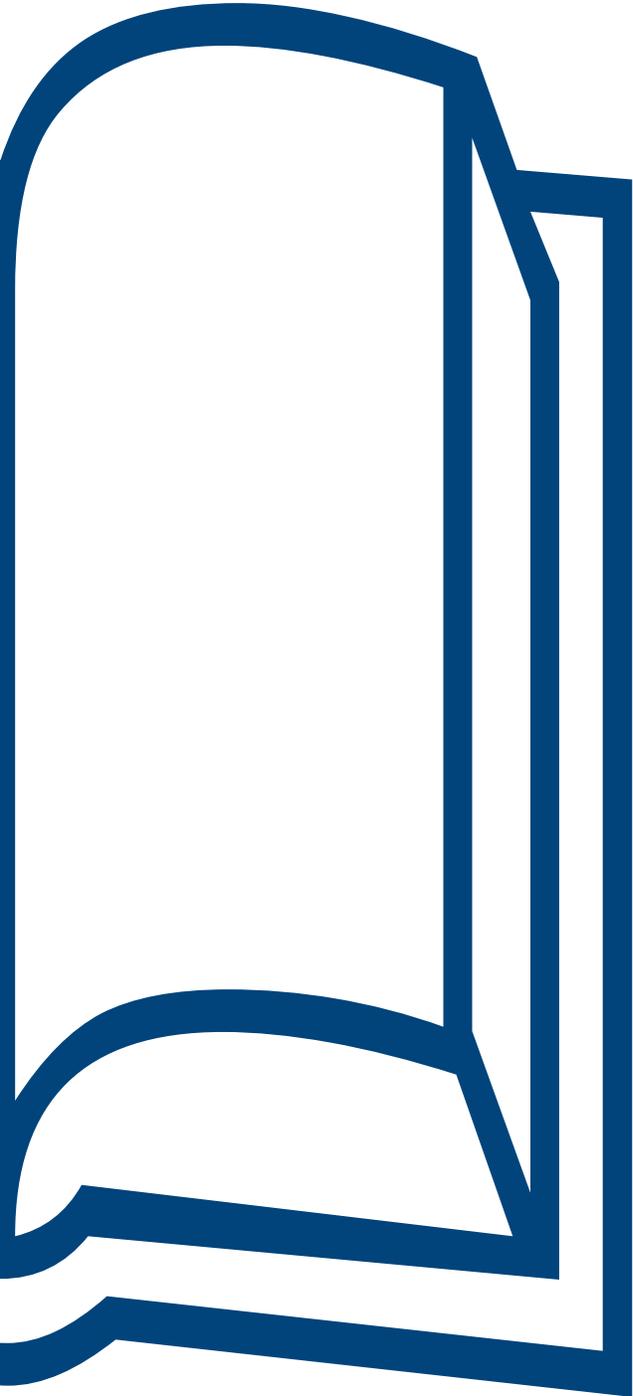
Children begin to write by first scribbling and drawing pictures on paper. Later, they begin to put letters and some words into their drawings until they finally learn to communicate their thoughts and ideas in writing.

Each child learns to read and write at a different speed and ability level than his/her peers.

Family literacy can happen naturally at home, or in structured programs at home or at centres. These activities or programs provide literacy skill-building opportunities for young children while enhancing literacy skill development in all members of the family.



Ways Parents Can Encourage Learning With Their Children:



- Make a special place to store your child's books; it shows that books are special and deserve an organized storage space.
- One of the earliest skills a child develops is the concept of sequencing (telling a story from start to finish in order). Practice this skill at home by having your child create their own picture books, then use these picture books to retell their stories to others.
- Encourage all family members to engage in storytelling. Afterward, ask a younger member of the family to re-tell the story in their own words.
- Practice and encourage emerging writing skills with young children and those new to learning a language. Do this by leaving notes for one another on a regular basis, or sending frequent e-mail messages.
- Visit the library together!
- Overall, encourage and support their interest and effort in reading and writing.

Information obtained from:

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