



Newport
Gardens
Primary School

Parent Information Session Literacy

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From birth, families play a key role in the development of their child's language and literacy skills.

A child's understanding of the world and their capacity to learn is greatly influenced by how much their family values their literacy skills.

Children who start school with greater literacy skills perform better in school, and not just in language-based subjects like English.



Helping your child to speak and listen



Talking with your child

Regularly talking and interacting with your child extends their language and listening skills, and helps grow their confidence.

Activities to try at home:

- Discuss everyday activities like grocery shopping, gardening, cooking, dinner etc
- Discuss outings to build new vocabulary with your child
- Share rhymes, poems and songs
- Talk about and share family histories
- Look at pictures and books
- Collect cardboard and other household items for your child to build with. Ask what they they are building

Story telling

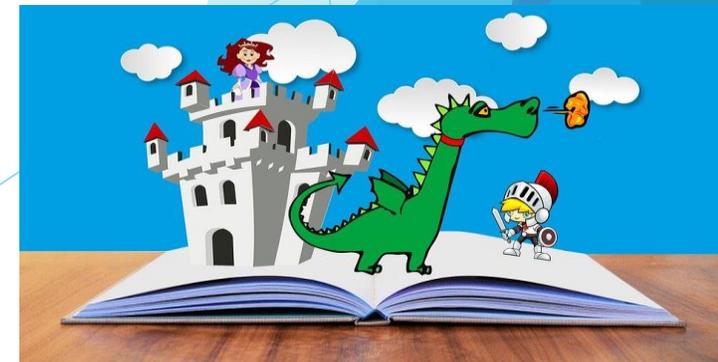
Storytelling is a great way to extend your child's imagination and memory.

Storytelling might be about:

- Their favourite toy
- A family member
- A pet, a character, famous people



As your child moves through primary school, they will speak with greater fluency and knowledge of the world.



Some tips to foster more fluent speaking:

- Try to ask specific question about their day. What is the book you are reading in class about? What did you do at lunchtime today?
- Show interest in your child's reading, writing and topics they are studying

Discussing news and current events:

- Involve your child in discussions around current events. Ask their opinion. This helps them to understand different perspectives and increases their vocabulary. It also helps with their understanding of the world

What do you think caused the event?

Why do you think people would do that? How could the problem be solved?

Helping your child to read



Reading Together

Reading together is so valuable. Reading increases your child's vocabulary, expands their understanding of the world, and gives them confidence. It is also an important way to help them see the link between spoken and written word.

Tips for the Early Years:

- Visit the library and read books together
- Set aside time for reading everyday
- Run your finger across the page with each word to help your child identify and remember words and sounds
- Look for rhyme and repetition in books

- Read to your child with expression and try putting on the voices of characters
- Point out important features about a book - words, pictures, front cover spine, contents page, title
- Explore words using a dictionary
- Encourage your child to take over some of the reading when they feel confident
- If confident, allow them to read without interruption. Fluency is gained with confidence
- Give your child the opportunity to re-read books and read at their own pace



Tips for the later years

- Even if your child is reading independently it is recommended to still read with your child
- If your child likes an author find another book or series by the same author
- Read about your favourite author/authors
- Introduce your child to reading different text types/genres such as poems, plays, non-fiction, fantasy, science-fiction
- Look up words that they may not understand
- Join the 'Premiers' Reading challenge' - details about the reading challenge will be sent home soon



Reading difficult words

When your child begins to read to you, they will often have trouble with long or tricky words. It is important to give your child enough time to work out difficult words by themselves. This helps to develop their reading skills.

Try asking:

- Look at the picture. What word could it be?
- What letter or letters does the word start with? What sound does that letter/letters make?
- What letter/letters are in the middle of the word? What sound do they make?
- What letter/letters are at the end of the word? What sound do they make?
- Can you put all the sounds together?



Book chat

Discussing the content and meaning of books is an important part of reading. Chat about the book before, during and after reading.

Try asking:

- Look at the cover. What do you think this book might be about?
- How would you describe the character at the beginning?
- How does the place the book is set make you feel?
- What is happening in the pictures?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Why do you think the character did that? What would you have done?
- Can you retell the story in your own words?
- What is the story's main message?
- Could you change the ending of the book? What would it be?



Screen time

There are a number of great games on the internet or Ipad to help your child engage in reading.

- Phonic games that improve letter and sound awareness
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling games
- Vocabulary games

Reading Eggs login and password



Helping your child to write

Learning to write begins with scribbling and drawing. This is an important first step and should be encouraged. The next step is to write letter like shapes before moving on to letters, capitals and lowercase. After this encourage your child to write sentences containing short words.

If your child is not writing:

- Talk about a shared experience or interest
- Ask your child what part they would like you to write down
- Use their language
- Ask your child to draw a picture to match the writing
- Try reading back what you wrote together



Some tips to help your child when writing

- Make sure you give your child all the necessary resources e.g pens, pencil, paper etc
- Support your child to read their writing aloud
- Encourage your child to create a matching picture or collage
- Always proudly display your child's work. This will give them confidence and demonstrate the importance of writing
- Create cards, letters, short stories, posters or lists

MAKE WRITING FUN!



Tips for the later years

As your child moves through school, they will create longer pieces of writing, write different genres and explore non-fiction and persuasive writing.

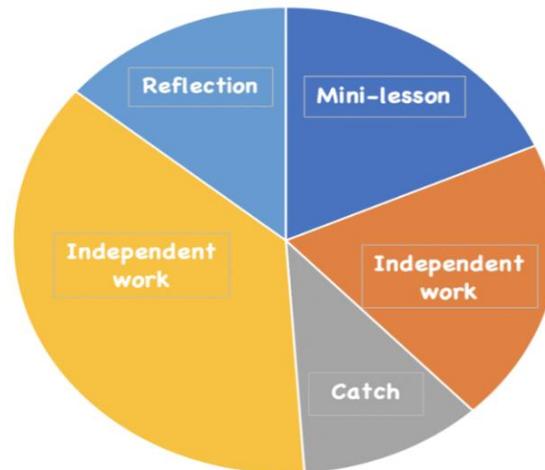
Some general tips:

- Continue to encourage them to read and write for everyday skills e.g. cards, to family members, recipes etc.
- Make sure they have a quiet place to write with appropriate materials
- Encourage your child to write different genres
- Use a favourite book to inspire some creative writing
- Encourage your child to write down their opinions and ideas about issues
- Encourage your child to revise and edit their work

- Keep a diary to record feelings and thoughts
- Write a review of a book or film
- Create a website together with a specific interest in mind
- Write a blog
- Write emails to family or friends
- Create presentations about family holidays etc



Newport Gardens Instructional Model



What does a Reading lesson look like?

Students will have an hour of reading each day.

This usually starts with the shared reading of a big book, picture story book or text. This book/ text will often be revisited many times during the week.

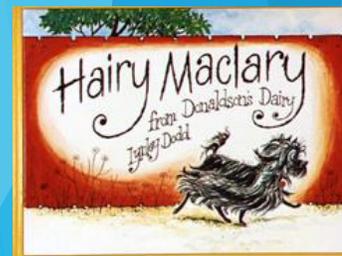
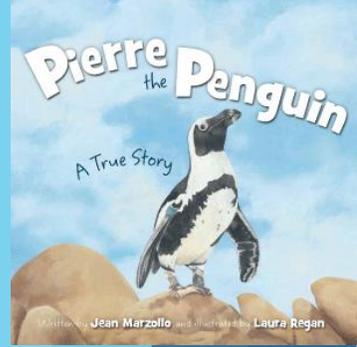
Students will then go off to practice independently using their book boxes.

Inside their book boxes students may have a combination of: songs, rhymes, picture story books, novels and copies of the text they have been reading in class. All matched to their ability.

Some students may also be reading in a small group with the teacher.

Some of the ways in which we actively engage our students in reading are through:

- ▶ classroom libraries filled with engaging texts catered to student interests and needs
- ▶ an independent reading program that encourages reading for enjoyment and builds reading stamina
- ▶ multiple exposures to quality texts to stimulate learning



What does a Writing lesson look like?

Students will have an hour of writing each day, which is usually linked to the Reading lesson.

Some of the ways in which we actively engage our students in writing are through:

- shared experiences
- likes and interests
- using books they have read
- talking about their ideas
- letter formation/handwriting
- making connections with Inquiry topics
- special events, such as Harmony Day, Anzac Day, etc.



Thank You!

Questions?