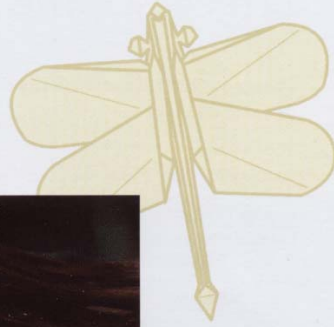


Early literacy



Early literacy



Literacy - the foundation for learning ●●●●●



Literacy is one of the most important things for young children to learn so that they can succeed in their later schooling and in life.

The foundations for these skills start well before children start schooling and continue away from the education program as they spend time with their families and communities.

Literacy involves having the skills to speak, listen, read and write and using them for different purposes. Literacy is built up of a lot of different knowledge about language and how it works.

Young children learn about language from the time they are born. When babies make themselves understood they are beginning to learn literacy skills. Children hear language used at home and in their community. They see pictures and words all around them as they begin to move about in the world. They begin to use words themselves to ask questions and to explain what they want. They begin to draw and pretend to read and write, seeming to understand very early that the signs and symbols we use carry messages to other people.

Every day, in different ways, we all 'do' literacy when we:

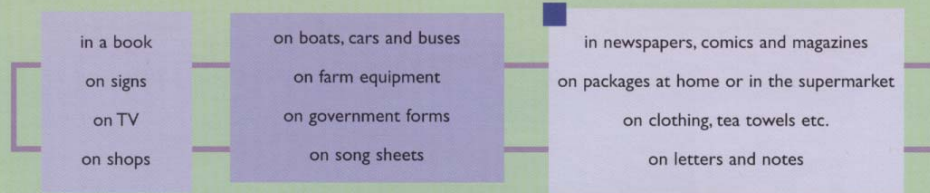
- talk to someone – face-to-face, by phone...
- follow instructions for games, recipes, going places...
- send a message – in letters and notes, emails, faxes...
- watch TV and talk about it
- choose from a menu
- browse through advertising pamphlets
- fill in forms, make shopping lists, go to the bank
- catch a bus, give an opinion, go for an interview
- use the library, find information, read for pleasure

The education program builds on the experiences that children have in their everyday lives.

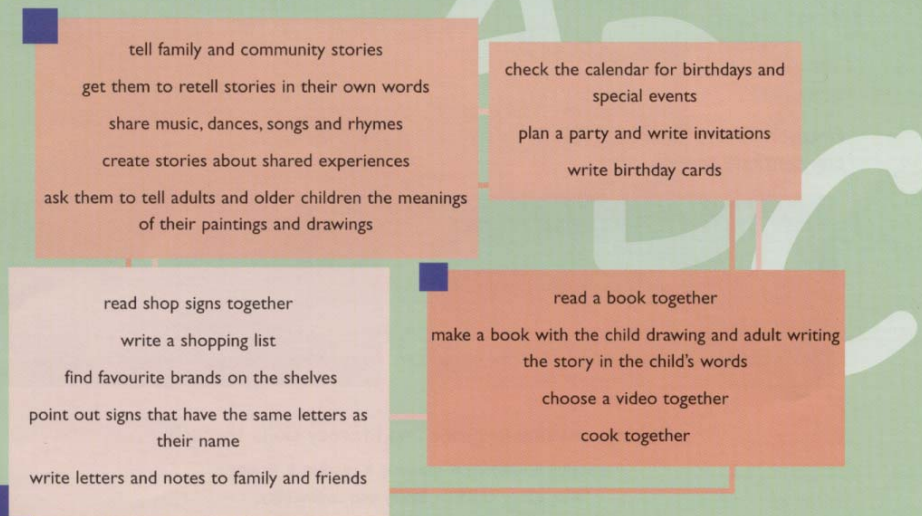


ABC

Here are some of the places that children might see letters, words and pictures in their community:



Here are some of the things families can do to help their children with literacy learning:



Here are some of the kinds of literacy knowledge children will need for education:

know that a book has a cover and a beginning, middle and end
know how we read from left to right and top of the page to the bottom
understand that words and pictures carry messages

understand that we use words and pictures for different purposes – to jot things down, to tell someone something, to explain or ask for something, to sell things

understand that we use language differently according to who we are, where we are, what we want to do and who we're talking to
understand that we have different ways of telling things – dances, songs, stories...

recognise their own name
write some letters of their own name
understand that we can write down what's happened for others to read
understand the difference between a letter, a word, a sentence and a picture

A B C



Once children start their educational program, families can continue to help by:

talking to children about what they're doing
answering their questions
talking together about TV programs and advertising
encouraging children's attempts to read and write

playing computer games with them and gathering information from the Internet
showing children how to answer the phone
talking about the signs and symbols in the world around them
joining the local library and sharing books together

Children develop language and literacy skills through:

- seeing ● listening ● speaking ● reading ● writing
- with other children, family and community.

C