



 **HANDY**

 **HINTS**

 **FOR**

 **HOME**

 **LEARNING**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Home-school partnership creates opportunities for the development of shared understandings of learning. This booklet has been designed to increase understandings about how children learn and how parents can continue to support their child's literacy and numeracy development.

The Early Years Literacy Program is designed as a resource for schools to plan for and implement a strategic and comprehensive approach to early literacy achievement.

Each day children participate in a two-hour daily literacy block, consisting of reading, writing and listening and speaking. During the literacy block, children share experiences as a whole class and work within small groups and individually. Teachers plan for these experiences based on their knowledge of children's learning, experiences, interests, strengths and needs.

Early Years Numeracy follows the same principles and format of the Early Years Literacy Program. Children are involved in interactive activities to develop their understandings of mathematical concepts.

This booklet is intended to replace an information evening about supporting children's learning at home. We hope you find the activities a great Prep-2 resource. If you have any further queries, please contact your child's teacher. This booklet will also be available on the school's web site [www.banyuleps.vic.edu.au](http://www.banyuleps.vic.edu.au)

Cheers,  
Sue, Michelle and Selena



# WRITING

## *How can I help my child with writing?*

### ***Setting the scene:***

- ✎ *Set aside a special place or area where your child can have free and creative writing. This is important to engage your child and a place where they can enjoy.*
- ✎ *Have a special writing tub or box containing some of the following:*
  - ✓ an assortment of coloured pencils, textas, crayons, pens, chalk, paints & brushes
  - ✓ a variety of coloured and different sizes of paper
  - ✓ sticky notes
  - ✓ spare envelopes
  - ✓ blank post cards
  - ✓ stamps
  - ✓ old magazines
  - ✓ junk mail
  - ✓ old birthdays cards etc
  - ✓ stamp pads
  - ✓ stickers
  - ✓ glue, scissors, tape
- ✎ *Create a mail box for your child to mail their letters, post cards, etc.*



## **Resources:**

- ✎ *Hang up alphabet letters, word lists, word charts, etc.*
- ✎ *Let your child have access to a dictionary and or a thesaurus.*

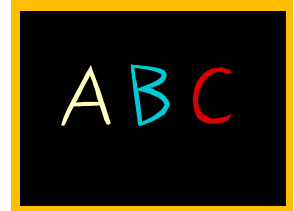
## **Writing activities:**

- ✎ *Some activities that may inspire your child are:*
- ✓ Write a letter to a friend or relative.
- ✓ Write a postcard to someone.
- ✓ Write an email to mum or dad at work.
- ✓ Write about a favourite book.
- ✓ Write out the shopping list.
- ✓ Write out the chores for family members.
- ✓ Write and leave messages for family members around the house.
- ✓ Write out invitations.
- ✓ Use the computer to publish work.
- ✓ Keep a personal diary to write in (decorate a plain book).
- ✓ Make an alphabet book or dictionary.
- ✓ Create a story together with family and friends.
- ✓ Make little books and write mini stories.
- ✓ Write a 'What am I? or Who am I?'
- ✓ Create a project about a favourite sport, person, subject, animal, etc.
- ✓ Write a joke or riddle for someone.



## ***Prompts for spelling strategies when writing:***

- ✎ Encourage your child to have a go first and praise them for trying.
- ✎ Ask your child:
  - ✓ To say the word slowly.
    - What sounds do you hear?
    - What letters might you use to make that sound?
  - ✓ Say you know how to spell *ball*. How do you think you might spell *small*?
  - ✓ Where else might you find the word?
- ✎ When your child brings a spelling/word list home to learn, try to make the practise fun by playing games that encourage careful listening to the sounds in words and looking for letter patterns. Your child may enjoy singing or reciting spelling words, or writing them out and colouring letter patterns.



## ***Should I correct my child's work?***

- ✎ *Try not to correct your child's writing unless you negotiate it together. Children often get disappointed if they see lots of correction on their work.*
- ✎ Don't dwell on mistakes, focus on the content.
- ✎ Ask your child to choose 3 or 4 words they would like corrected and discuss the correct spelling together.
- ✎ Give your child feedback about their writing and praise them for their efforts.
- ✎ Allow your child to have an audience who listens to them read what they written and provide opportunities for celebrating their writing.

# spelling

The following activities provide your child with the opportunity to practise spelling words in a variety of ways. Instead of just writing their spelling words on paper, your child can develop their understanding of the words through fun and interesting spelling activities. We hope these selected activities will make spelling more enjoyable and fun to do at home with your child!

## Look Say Cover Write Check

In this activity, your child chooses a spelling word.

They:

- look at the word carefully.
- say the word out loud.
- Cover the word with their hand.
- Then write the word on the paper.
- Check the word to see if they got it right.

This process can be done for each spelling word.



## Word Tally

Your child can keep a tally of how many times they see their spelling words in a book they're reading.

## Missing Letters

Your child can create their own missing letter quizzes from their spelling words. E.g. b- tt - r = better

## Alphabetical Order

Your child can list their words alphabetically. It's important that your child check more than just the first letter to help them order their words alphabetically.

## Dictionary Search

With their spelling encourage your child to use a dictionary to locate each word. They need to write down the word which comes before and after their spelling word.

## Word Building

For each word in their spelling list, get your child to try and make a new word by adding a suffix to the end of the word. E.g. adding s, ed, es and ing to one of their spelling words.

## Small Words and Big Words

Your child writes their spelling words onto paper. For each word, they have to see how many smaller words they can find within the word. E.g. Grandad-ran, dad, and, gran, an.

## Word Search

Using the website [www.puzzlemaker.com](http://www.puzzlemaker.com) your child can create a word search using their spelling words. The website has step-by-step instructions on how to create a word search puzzle.

## Rebus pictures and sentences

For this activity, your child can draw a picture instead of writing the word.

E.g. Today it is . I ♥ reading.



## Using words in a sentence

For each spelling word, encourage your child to write each word in a sentence. If they feel confident with this, see if they can write all the words in a small paragraph. They can underline their spelling words in the paragraph.

## Magazine and Newspaper Hunt

Your child can search through magazines to find their spelling words and paste them onto paper.

## Word Path

Your child can create their own word path with their spelling words. E.g. how

l  
w a s

## Shape words

Your child can draw a square or rectangle shape around each of the letters in their spelling words.

E.g. 

h	o	w
---	---	---

## Syllables

Your child can clap out or colour code the syllables in their spelling words. E.g. no + one = 2 syllables.

## Rainbow Writing

Your child can use different coloured pencils/textas to help remember spelling patterns in their words.

## Games

Play games like hangman, Scrabble, upwords and Boggle, Word bingo.

## Word Sort-Letters

With their spelling list, your child can group their words according to the number of letters in the word.

E.g. 4 letters, 5 letters, 6 letters and 7 letters. They can write their words under the headings above.

## Questions

Your child can write their spelling word in a question.

## Different Fonts on Microsoft Word/Powerpoint

For this activity, your child will need to have access to a computer with a writing program. Your child can type their spelling list words on the computer and then change the font and size of the words on the screen.

## Rhyming Words

With their spelling list, your child can write as many words that rhyme with their spelling words.

# Reading

*Reading at home is a way to develop positive reading habits in your child so they enjoy reading.*

The R.E.A.D.I.T Home Reading book is full of lots of excellent tips and ideas to help parents along the way. It also involves children in evaluating their reading.



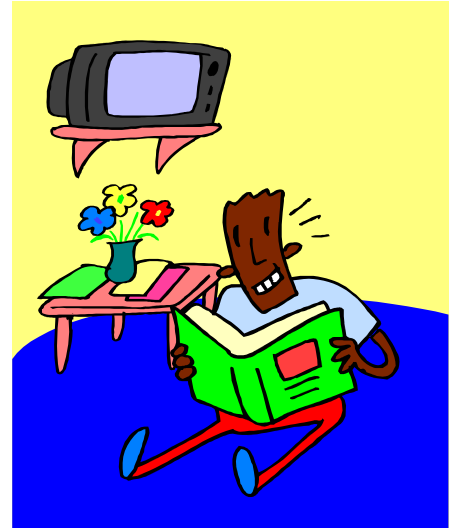
Your child should read for about 30 minutes every day. It is also important for parents to read out loud to their child, or your child can read with you and you can help each other. You can read a paragraph and have your child read the next one. As your child becomes more at ease with reading aloud, take turns reading a full page. Keep in mind that your child may be focusing on how to read, and your reading helps to keep the story alive.

Set up a reading area in your home. Keep books that interest your child in places where they can easily reach them. As your child becomes a better reader, make sure that you add harder books to your collection. Your child does not have to borrow books from the school boxes only, they can read books they borrow from:

- 📖 the school library
- 📖 a local library
- 📖 books that you already have at home

Your child does not only have to read books, they could read:

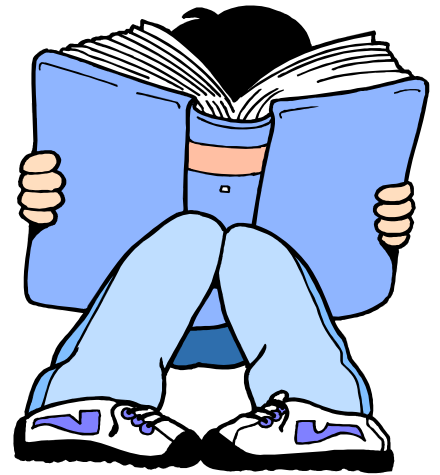
- 📖 magazines
- 📖 newspapers
- 📖 comics
- 📖 food packages
- 📖 poems
- 📖 maps



### **Things to do while reading:**

- 📖 Listen attentively as your child reads.
- 📖 If your child has trouble reading words, you can help in several ways.
- 📖 Give them time to look at the word.
- 📖 Encourage your child to use strategies they know to have a go at the word. Strategies include asking them:
  - 😊 “What do you think the word is?”
  - 😊 “Read the sentence again and see if you can work it out”
  - 😊 “Have a go”
  - 😊 “Look at the picture”
  - 😊 “What does it start with? What sound does it make?”

- ❏ Tell them to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and ask what word would make sense in the story.
- ❏ After they have a go themselves and they are still unsure supply the correct word.
- ❏ Tell children how proud you are of their efforts and skills.
- ❏ Ask your child to find letters and words on the page and talk with your children about the story.
- ❏ It's often a good idea to talk about a story you are reading, but you do not need to talk about every story. Good stories will encourage a love for reading, with or without conversation. Sometimes children need time to think about stories they have read. A day or so later, don't be surprised if your child mentions something from a story you've read together.
- ❏ There are many websites that have interactive books where your child can listen to stories being read on line with follow up activities. Please refer to the list of websites provided at the back of this booklet.

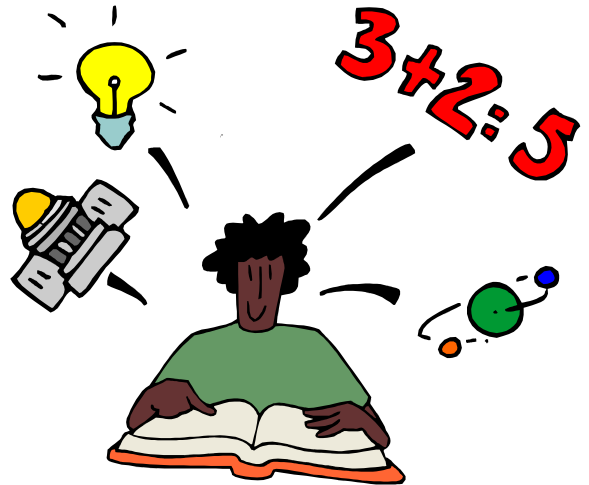


# Listening and Speaking

- ☺ Get your child to practise what they are going to share for 'Show and Tell' and focus on answering some questions like:
  - 🧠 *Where did it come from?*
  - 🧠 *Who gave it to you?*
  - 🧠 *Where do you keep it?*
  - 🧠 *What can it do?*
  - 🧠 *Where did you get it?*
  - 🧠 *Why is it special?*
- ☺ Play celebrity head – select a topic, theme, animal, etc and focus on asking questions about what you are.
- ☺ If allowed have your child answer the telephone.
- ☺ Have your child speak on a tape recorder so they can listen to themselves reading or speaking about a topic.
- ☺ Play a game by picking a subject/topic/thing and give a quick 2 minute / impromptu talk to a small audience.
- ☺ Use your child's reading book and turn it into play or a performance for the family.
- ☺ **Echo Read:** Choose something fun to read, such as a poem, rhyme, or joke. You read a sentence with expression and ask your child to repeat the phrase after you.

# N U M E R A C Y

Numeracy is made up of many different components which are all covered in the classroom. However, there are many tasks which can be done at home together to assist your child with their understandings.



No doubt you want to offer your child all the help and support you can at home. Here are some examples of everyday activities with a mathematical link. Here are some activities to help your child' maths.

- Saying number rhymes
- Sharing sweets etc
- Checking their own height and weight
- Helping to weigh ingredients in the kitchen
- Looking for shapes all around them
- Learning the order of the days, months, seasons

- Knowing the time of daily events - school times, bedtimes, the times of favourite TV programmes
- Counting pocket money
- Checking the change received when buying something at a shop
- Estimating how much shopping items are going to cost
- Hang out the washing and count the pegs used
- Investigate all the different types of shapes around the house. E.g. square tile in the bathroom.
- Playing games. Many of the commercially produced games you have got at home have a mathematical context. E.g. snakes and ladders, ludo, noughts and crosses, dominoes, draughts.



Learning mathematics is like learning a language - your child needs to become fluent - so you might also want to help them to learn and remember some number facts.

**Adding** - Your child needs to be comfortable doing two things: adding multiples of ten (20, 30, 40 etc) and knowing the pairs of numbers which make 10 or 20 (4 + 6, 14 + 6, 2 + 8, 12 + 8, etc).



**Subtracting** - There are two ways of subtracting. In the first way, we count backwards or take something away. So to do  $14 - 6$ , we would take away 6 from 14. In the second way of subtracting, we count on from one number to the next. So to do  $13 - 9$ , we would count on from 9 to 13. Your child will need to look at the numbers involved and to be able to select the most appropriate method.

### **Using a calculator**

All children love playing and using calculators. Get your child to check their work with a calculator. Sitting back to back take it in turns to say a sum like 4 plus 4 equals, turn around and check your answers. This encourages children to listen and focus on using correct mathematical language.

# NUMBER GAMES

*Here are some games you might like to try to reinforce your child's mathematical skills.*

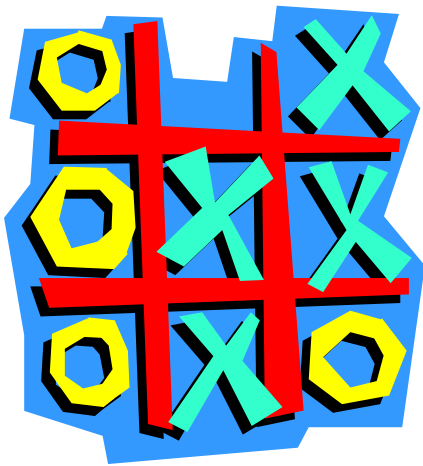
## **SNAKES AND LADDERS -**

### ***Some variations***

- ◆ Throw a dice. Work out what number you will land on. If you are correct you can move that number of spaces. If you are wrong you can't move.
- ◆ Play the same game again but backwards (starting at 100 and taking away the number shown on the dice).
- ◆ Play the same game, but if you land on a multiple of 10 you get an extra turn.
- ◆ Play with two dice and your child have to add the 2 numbers rolled together. Or subtract the lower number from the higher number to work out how many spaces they can move.
- ◆ Play using 8, 9, 10 sided dice.
- ◆ Vary the game by moving only on odd or even rolls.
- ◆ Design your own snakes and ladders game and use different animals.

## ***YES/NO GAME***

The first person thinks of a number within a specific range (e.g. between 0 and 20). The second person has to guess the number by asking questions. However, they may only ask questions which the answer is yes or no. Try to discourage random guesses by developing logical thinking and good questioning strategies. Some good questions might include, 'Is it more than 10?', 'Is it an even number?', 'Is less than 15?', 'Is it in between 12 and 18?'



## ***NUMBER NOUGHTS AND CROSSES***

This game is played like noughts and crosses but with the use of the numbers 1 to 9. The first player has the odd numbers (1,3,5,7,9) and the second player the even numbers (2,4,6,8). The person with the odd numbers begins the game. The aim of the game is to make a row, column or diagonal add up to a total of 15. The player who places the final number to do this is the winner.

# DICE GAMES



## DON'T BE GREEDY

This is a good game to practise addition to 100 (or a smaller number). To play you need to throw two dice and add the scores together. Each player can continue to throw the dice as many times as they choose in order to build up their own personal score. However, if they throw a 1 their score for that turn is wiped out, and if they throw a double their total score within the game is wiped out. The winner is the first person to gain a total score of 100 or more. This game can be simplified by the use of only one dice and a smaller total score to win the game.

## DICE BINGO

Select 4 numbers if using a 6 six sided dice and write them on a piece of paper. You can select a number more than once. Increase the selection of numbers if using an 8, 9, 10, 12 or 20 sided dice. Roll the dice and if you have the closest number on you sheet you can tick it off. You can not tick off the identical number rolled on your sheet. You can vary the game by selecting only odd or even numbers and making your own rules.

**G A R D**

**G A N E S**

## **Snap**

Players place one card face up at a time on the central pile, if the same number appears twice players need to 'Snap'. The first player to 'Snap' takes the cards. The winner is the



player with the most cards or all the cards.

For younger children you may want to make a set of cards with both objects and numbers on them (0 to 10).

## **Add snap**

This is a game for any number of players. Two cards are shown to all the players. The first person to shout out the total of the two cards wins the cards. The player who gains the most cards wins the game.

## **Adding to 10**

Remove the jacks and kings from a pack of cards. Spread the cards upside down on the table. Take it in turns to turn two over. If they add up to 10 you keep them. The queen counts as a 0.

## **Guess the pair**

The cards are all laid out, face up in five rows of eight. The dealer chooses two cards, which are next to each other either horizontally or vertically, and calls out their total. The first player to point to the correct pair wins them. This player then chooses the next pair.

## **What's the total?**

Use only cards Ace - 9, Ace = 1. Deal each player 2 cards and find the total. E.g.  $5+4=9$ . Player with the highest total wins.

Find the difference between the 2 cards.

E.g.  $8-5=3$ . Player with the lowest total wins.

Play the game adding 3 cards together.

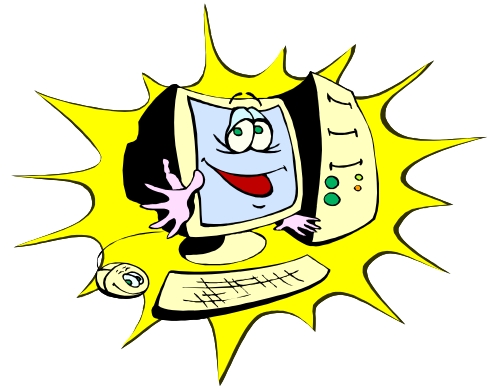
## **Number line**

Use only cards Ace - 10, Ace = 1. Place cards in a pile in the middle. Each player takes a turn to take a card off the pile and the first person to complete their own number line A to 10 wins. If you choose a card that you already have in your line still put it on top of the number.

Children may like to design and make their own deck of cards.

# WEBSITES

Here is a selection of some websites which can be used to consolidate your child's understanding of different mathematical areas. We have included a brief



summary for each website so that you are aware of how the website will support your child's learning.

**[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/site/numeracy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml)**

This BBC website has a range of different interactive maths activities. It is divided up into age appropriate levels and covers a variety of math concepts. The great thing about this website is that it has excellent animation and easy step-by-step instructions for your child to follow. If the link above does not work type in **[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)** Type 'School' in the search engine and then follow the link to the 'Numeracy' section.

**[www.rainforestmaths.com/](http://www.rainforestmaths.com/)**

This website has a variety of interactive maths activities for your child. The website is sectioned into specific grade levels. Once you click onto a level, a screen will come up with a range of different mathematical areas to choose from. Your child can then play different interactive activities related to that mathematical area.

**[www.topmarks.co.uk/MathsGames.aspx](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/MathsGames.aspx)**

This website has a great selection of fun math games for your child to play. The games are divided into grade levels, and included a short description of what mathematical concepts the game incorporates.

*We hope these websites will support and consolidate your child's understanding of mathematical concepts. We have also made a list of websites that you may like to use. If you find an interesting website for children please let your child's teacher know and we can publish it in the school's newsletter.*