

# Literacy Tips for Parents

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## ORAL LANGUAGE

### Infants - 1<sup>st</sup> Class

- Listen to what your child is saying /trying to say and respond to contributions
- Make and maintain eye contact while talking with your child
- Explain the meaning of words
- Talk through activities
- Talk through everyday experiences
- Involve your child in discussions / plans
- Ask / Answer questions
- Teach your child nursery rhymes / songs / poems/ raps
- Develop your child's receptive language by asking him/her to follow simple instructions
- Assist your child to express ideas in an orderly fluent way
- Read to your child each night

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - 4<sup>th</sup> Class

- Set aside 10-15 minutes to discuss the day's happenings
- Encourage your child to express and justify opinions
- Involve your child in adult conversation when appropriate
- Talk about the child's favourite T.V programme
- Play language games which focus on words i.e. Scrabble, crosswords
- Encourage your child to talk about experiences with a wide range of people ; peers, relations, other adults
- Listen carefully and clarify meaning 'Do you mean /or is this what you mean?'
- Encourage your child to give reasons for decisions
- Encourage your child to listen courteously to the opinions of others
- Talk about school topics and assignments

### 5<sup>th</sup> Class - 6<sup>th</sup> Class

- Encourage your child to develop a positive attitude to speaking / listening
- Discuss your child's school work successes/concerns/inter ests.
- Respect your child's opinions and feelings
- Involve your child in adult conversations, when appropriate
- Help your child to extend his range of words in specialised subjects
- Encourage your child to listen and respond courteously to others.
- Watch and discuss T.V. news / current affairs programmes together
- Assist your child to locate information in local library, internet
- Talk about school topics and assignments
- Play commercial games that focus on word building

## READING

### Infants - 1<sup>st</sup> Class

- Read to your child as often as you can
- Talk about books / characters / plots
- Enrol your child in the local library
- Provide a good role model by reading yourself / other family members
- Keep audio tapes of familiar stories to play in the car
- Vary the type of books read - stories / poems / information
- Accept your child's efforts with praise
- Concentrate on what he /she got right
- Make reading together enjoyable
- Take part in school based initiatives like 'Shared Reading '
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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - 4<sup>th</sup> Class

- Continue to read to your child every day.
- Read some of the books your child enjoys so you can discuss it with him/her.
- Encourage your child to read to younger brothers/ sisters.
- Ensure that your child knows that you value and enjoy reading yourself.
- Make sure there is a wide variety of reading material in your home - newspapers, magazines, information, cookery books etc.
- Enrol and encourage your child to visit the local library once a week...
- Discuss favourite authors.
- Encourage your child to read articles / headlines in newspapers.
- Encourage your child to guess unknown words.
- Praise your child's efforts

### 5<sup>th</sup> Class - 6<sup>th</sup> Class

- Encourage your child to visit the local library as often as possible.
- Recognise and praise your child's efforts in reading.
- Ensure your child has access to a wide range of reading material -newspapers, magazines, guides etc.
- Take an interest in different children's authors.
- Discuss ideas and points of view proposed by newspaper articles etc.
- Provide a well-lit study / reading area.
- Ensure that you value and enjoy reading yourself.
- Allow your child to choose his /her own reading material.
- Encourage your child to read for information - timetables / weather forecasts / menus
- Encourage your child to try and guess unknown words.

## WRITING

### Infants - 1<sup>st</sup> Class

- Model writing yourself - shopping lists / letters / cards etc.
- Provide a special place for your child to write / scribble provide a variety of materials - crayons markers /pencils (box)
- Display your child's name as often as possible i.e. Sean's Room.
- Teach your child the letters in his own name.
- Provide alphabet books friezes.
- Write messages / reminders to your child.
- Encourage child to write his / her own messages.
- Praise your child's efforts.
- Ask child to read their own messages.
- Respond to the messages and not to grammar and spelling

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Class - 4<sup>th</sup> Class

- Praise your child's efforts - respond to the message and not spelling / handwriting grammar.
- Look for opportunities for purposeful writing activities at home - writing greeting cards, notes, telephone messages.
- Encourage your child to use a word processor / computer.
- Provide a quiet writing /study area for your child well equipped with pencils/ paper
- Encourage your child to keep a diary.
- Support your child's spelling attempts.
- Encourage him to have a go at spelling difficult words.
- Use scrapbooks to support the child's hobby / special interests. Presents that support writing.
- Make sure your child has a dictionary to help with writing.
- Help child fill in personal details on forms etc.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Class - 6<sup>th</sup> Class

- Encourage your child to keep a diary. Respect privacy.
- Encourage your child to write for real purposes everyday - shopping lists / phone messages etc.
- Praise the effort and respond to the message and not the handwriting, grammar etc.
- Make sure that your child has access to a dictionary, thesaurus to help with writing.
- Allow your child work on a word processor.
- Try crossword puzzles and 'Find the word puzzles'.
- Provide a range of attractive writing materials - coloured pens, fancy paper.
- Encourage your child to write greeting cards / thank you notes etc.
- Encourage your child to take part in writing competitions / community projects.
- Show your child that you value writing by writing yourself