



# CURRICULUMCORNER



12/17/24

Welcome to the Curriculum Corner!

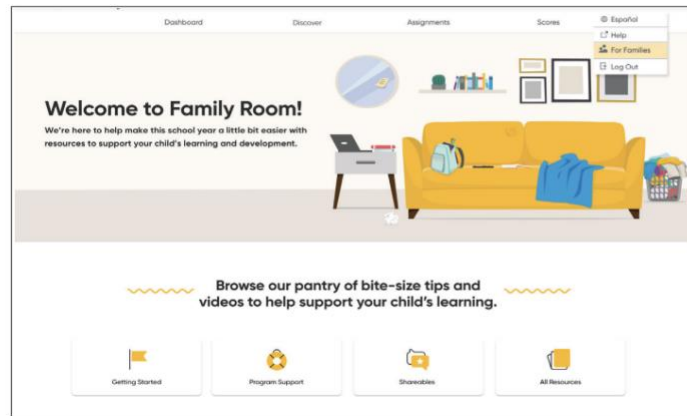
I wanted to share some ELA information with you all:

*This year we have an exciting new resource called the Family Room that will help you gain an understanding of what your child may be working on in school. The Family Room is divided into three sections:*

- *Getting Started includes general tips on how to navigate Ed.*
- *Program Support includes resources and strategies that I'll be introducing to your child during class, as well as suggestions for how you can support your child at home.*
- *Finally, check out Shareables for quick tips about the challenges that many parents experience, like getting their children to talk about their learning.*

*View this quick [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWUC4_MjwVU) ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWUC4\\_MjwVU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWUC4_MjwVU)) to learn more, and remember: You're always welcome in the Family Room!*

The Into Reading Ed learning platform has a space for families and caregivers to support learning at home. These resources are available in both **English and Spanish**.



**Family Room** is easily accessible from the Ed student log in.

## Resources include:

- 5 Questions Teachers Wants You to Ask Them
- Navigating HMH's Learning Platform, Ed
- Meet Your HMH Program
- Getting to Know Your HMH Resources
- The Power of Talk
- 5 Steps to Managing Attention and Behavior
- How to Ask Follow-Up Questions to Get Talk Started
- Avoid the Meltdown with Brain Breaks
- No "I'm Bored" Here: Activities to Spark Learning

## ELA WEBSITES

<https://www.getepic.com/>

<https://www.funbrain.com/>

<https://www.freereadingprogram.com/>

<https://pbskids.org/>

<https://www.astrosafe.co/blog/free-reading-websites-for-kids>

# ELA AT HOME



## Maine's Comprehensive State Literacy Plan

**What is Literacy?**  
Literacy is the ability to develop and communicate understanding in a variety of ways, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, and viewing.

**What is LITERACY FOR ME?**  
Literacy for ME is a statewide effort to help all Maine citizens develop strong literacy skills.



**Supporting Literacy at Every Age**  
Even though school is an important place for children to build literacy skills, families and community members have key roles to play. Here are a number of simple, but important, things parents and community members can do to support literacy at every age.



[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)

**Why is LITERACY FOR ME important?**  
Making sure that all Mainers have the chance to develop high levels of literacy is a responsibility we all share. This effort is important to Maine for several reasons:

- 21st century communities require citizens and workers who are skilled readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers.
- Strong literacy skills can be the difference between living in poverty and being able to support oneself or one's family.
- Maine's future depends on our ability to raise capable, well-educated, and highly literate children.



## How to Get Involved

**If you would like to get involved with LITERACY FOR ME there are some things you can do.**


- Share this brochure with your family and friends. Encourage them to support literacy as well.
- Visit the *LITERACY FOR ME* website to get information about community literacy planning. [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)
- Contact the Maine Department of Education for additional information.

**Lee Anne Larsen**  
Literacy Specialist  
Maine Department of Education  
207-624-6628  
[Leeann.larsen@maine.gov](mailto:Leeann.larsen@maine.gov)



[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)





## School Age Kindergarten to Grade 5

*As children enter school, their literacy skills improve a great deal. Children learn by watching the important people in their lives. This means that family and community members can support the literacy instruction that happens in school and can help children see themselves as readers, writers, and communicators. The tips in this section can help encourage elementary age children.*

**Language skills develop rapidly during the elementary school years. Help children develop listening and speaking skills with tips, questions, and games.**

- Point out new and interesting words and help children learn what they mean. Ask them to think of other words that mean the same thing.
- Show children how parts of words can help them learn other words (tricycle, triangle, tripod).
- Play "turn taking" games in your conversations, so younger children can practice the "rules" for talking with others.
- Try asking specific questions about their interests as a way to begin a conversation about school.
- Talk about things you notice and ask children to tell you more.

**Reading at this age is as much about building habits as it is about building skills. Find ways to be a reading role model and help children build good reading habits.**

- Read aloud each day. Even short reading sessions build interest in reading for young children. For English learners, point to pictures frequently or objects in the room to build vocabulary.
- Select a special place for reading. Encourage children to decorate a sign for that place.
- Ask questions about books to help children focus on meaning.
- Ask children to read aloud to you. Even if a child recites a book from memory, this is an important activity. Encourage and praise their efforts often.
- Encourage children to reread books they enjoy. Ask them to tell you something they discovered after rereading, including new words or ideas.
- Visit a library. Help children to select books by interest or at the right level.

**Writing skills develop as children gain motor skills, confidence, and knowledge. Help children build their writing skills by modeling and sharing writing activities.**

- Create a book together. Creating books about events in your family can be a great way to help kids learn about how writing can be used to hold on to memories and share them with others.
- For English learners, encourage them to write using words in their own language and work with them to include a translation.
- Encourage thank you notes and let children see you writing them as well.
- Ask children to write reminders for the family, add events to calendars, and create "to do" lists.
- Help children understand that everything they read was written by someone. When you read together, ask questions about the writing of the story.

Thank you!

Tina Dumond

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Gifted and Talented Administrator

McKinney-Vento Liaison

RSU #63

[kdumond@rsu63.org](mailto:kdumond@rsu63.org) (207)843-7769 ext.129