

Supporting Early Literacy at Home

Families are a child's first and most important teachers. You don't need to be a reading expert to help your child become a strong reader. Just spending time talking, reading, and playing together makes a big difference. Research shows that early literacy experiences at home build the foundation for reading success and long-term academic achievement.

What You Can Do at Home

Read together every day

Reading aloud, even for just 10 to 15 minutes, helps build vocabulary, comprehension, and a love of books.

Try asking questions like:

- What do you think will happen next?
- How does the character feel? Why?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Does this remind you of anything in your life?
- What would you do if you were in this story?

Talk, sing, and tell stories

Having conversations and sharing stories strengthens language skills. Talk about your day, sing songs, and tell family stories. It's just as powerful in your home language as it is in English.

Reading and talking in your family's home language supports brain development and helps children become strong readers in English too. Being bilingual is a gift that supports learning in all subjects.

Build fine motor skills through play

Before children can write letters and words, they need strong hand and finger muscles. You can build these muscles through fun activities like:

- Playing with playdough
- Lacing beads or cereal onto string
- Cutting with safety scissors
- Using tweezers or clothespins to pick up small objects
- Coloring, drawing, or tracing shapes and letters

These kinds of play strengthen coordination and muscle control, which makes handwriting easier and more enjoyable.

Make reading joyful and part of everyday life

Let your child choose the books, even if it's the same one over and over. Use funny voices and sound effects. Read signs, labels, or recipes together. Reading happens everywhere. Visit your local library and explore books in English and your home language.

If you need help choosing books or creating a reading routine at home, reach out to your child's teacher. We're here to support you every step of the way.