

# HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ, WRITE AND VIEW

In the middle to upper years of primary school students use reading and writing to learn and explore other learning areas, and to seek out information for themselves as active learners. The activities below will help your child develop these skills.



## Creating reading and writing opportunities at home

As readers and writers, children explore their world everyday beyond school and home. It's important at home that you:

99. Show a genuine interest in your child's reading and writing and viewing of all different types of texts.
100. Let them see you read and write and tell them why you are reading and writing.
101. Talk to your child about their understanding and encourage their reading and writing efforts.
102. Share family histories and stories through talking and encourage your child to talk to older family members.
103. Discuss television shows or films that you have watched together.
104. Encourage your child to develop their own library of books.
105. Talk about world events and encourage your child to look at the different sides of the story to form their own opinions.

# SUPPORTING your child's reading and writing at home

Create a routine for learning and provide materials to motivate writing such as:

- 106. Notebooks to write their ideas and feelings.
- 107. Computers and/or netbooks.
- 108. Markers, pencils, highlighters and pens.
- 109. Dictionaries and thesauruses as references. These can be books or found online.
- 110. Online resources such as online maps, encyclopaedias, weather sites.



# ASKING your child questions

111. By asking questions you can support your child to:

- Share their enjoyment of reading and writing.
- Develop a better understanding about the characters or topics.
- Develop a sense of empathy for others.
- Develop their values, attitudes and beliefs about the world.
- Broaden their experience and knowledge of the world.
- Foster their imagination.
- Consider the important points in what they are reading.



**These are the types of questions your child might be asked at school. You can include some of these questions when you talk about reading at home too.**

The following questions require your child to get clues from the text to answer:

- 112. How do you think the character was feeling?
- 113. How would you change the ending?
- 114. How would you describe the changes in the character/setting?

These questions require your child to refer back to the text:

- 115. What were the characters' names?
- 116. What was the setting?
- 117. What did each character do?
- 118. What happened at the beginning, middle and end of the text?

The following questions require your child to think about the main messages:

- 119. What do you think is the main message in the story or text?
- 120. Can you relate it to another event or issue?
- 121. Do you agree with the views of the author?
- 122. What is your opinion about the message in the story?
- 123. How could other people see it differently?

# WORKING out difficult words

It is important to give your child time and strategies to read or write any long or unfamiliar words.

Before telling your child the word when he or she is reading, try these prompts:

124. Look for clues for the word's meaning in the sentence.
125. Look at the word closely. Does it look like another word you know?
126. Can you break the word down into smaller parts?
127. Do the words before and after this word help?
128. Before spelling a word for your child when he or she is writing, try asking:
  - Does it look right?
  - Does it sound right?



# SHARE ideas about texts

Talk to your child about how you select books for your own reading. After your child has read a text, encourage him or her to share insights, feelings and understandings of the text.

Here are some ideas that may suit your child's interests:

129. Read about the author or illustrator at their website.
130. Find and read another story by the same author.
131. Follow the instructions from the text to create something, for example, recipes, making models, or origami (Japanese paper folding).
132. Read several articles together on the same issue to get more than one opinion. Discuss the different views expressed.
133. View a movie based on a book and make comparisons.
134. Draw or paint pictures about the scenes or characters from a story. Draw these online by clicking the Draw link on the *Connect-Primary* website.
135. Make music to match the text by clicking the Explore or Make Music links on the *Connect-Primary* website.



See the link at <http://www.origami.com/index.html> for examples and instructions.



Visit *Connect-Primary* at: [www.education.vic.gov.au/primary](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/primary)



# ENCOURAGE your child to read or write with a specific purpose in mind

Some ideas include:

136. Read a book or film review by clicking the Review link on the *Connect-Primary* website and then you and your child can add your own review.
137. Listen to and view texts on the internet, MP3 or other digital audio player. Click on the Listen link on the *Connect-Primary* website to watch and listen to stories.
138. Read, collect, experiment with and write recipes to create a cookbook.
139. Find out facts about the world by clicking the Find link on the *Connect-Primary* website.
140. Use instant messaging to communicate with family and friends together.
141. Keep a diary where your child can record events, feelings etc.
142. Make and write greeting cards.
143. Write a shopping list for a recipe you and your child wish to make.
144. Capture video of your own review using a web camera, or the movie function of a digital camera or mobile phone. View other videos made by children by clicking the Watch link on the *Connect-Primary* website.
145. Play appropriate computer games that require reading.
146. Download podcasts to listen and discuss.
147. Join a blog to read and to make contributions together.

# FAMILY projects

Take the opportunity to involve the whole family in reading and writing. Some family projects could include:

148. Emailing friends or family members.
149. Using social networking sites to communicate with family and friends.
150. Reading a book series together.
151. Reading the instructions for a new item together to find out how it works.
152. Recording family events or travel experiences in a journal or on an online blog.
153. Writing plays and performing them for family and friends.
154. Reading, selecting and collecting news articles and creating an album about, for example, a sporting team, pet type, or leisure activity. Find out some sporting facts by clicking the Sport link on the *Connect-Primary* website.
155. Solving crosswords, word puzzles, brain teasers, playing word games and quizzes together.
156. Browsing libraries and book shops together.
157. Making a movie together by clicking the Make a Movie link on the *Connect-Primary* website.
158. Following a map or brochure on an outing, including reading public transport timetables and information signs at public sights.



Visit the *Connect-Primary* website at: [www.education.vic.gov.au/primary](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/primary)