



# Reading at home: A guide for families

**There are many ways to support your child's reading before and during their schooling. These activities are suitable for children of all ages.**

## Through play

- › Playing word games
- › Using rhymes to explore sounds
- › Teaching the alphabet through song, matching cards, puzzles
- › Singing and karaoke with subtitles and lyrics
- › Creating your own books with drawings and simple sentences
- › Rhyming bingo and memory match with words / letters
- › Writing words and letters in the sand
- › Making a home mailbox (or using a real one) and sending short notes to read and respond to
- › Listening to audiobooks together, available from your local library.



### Through vocabulary and language

- Providing access to books and educational toys
- Making time to read together every day
- Visiting libraries, art centres and museums
- Using puppets to tell stories or act out scenes
- Naming as many words as you can that start with a particular letter and are in a category
- Labelling objects around the house (door, sink, fridge)
- Introduce new words in conversation and encourage your child to use the new vocabulary
- Being word aware when reading aloud, highlighting new words in children's books and discussing their sounds and meanings.

### Through conversations

- Talking with and listening to your child
- Answering and asking questions
- Playing Would you rather? - e.g. "Would you rather a dog or a cat?" Then asking why?
- Playing guess the word - one person chooses the word and gives clues until the other person guesses the word
- Choosing a magic word each day, and using it in different ways when talking with your child
- Describing what you're doing e.g. "I'm chopping the crunchy carrots for dinner" and using descriptive words e.g. "Look at that enormous puddle!"

**Parents are able to complete a reading awareness checklist through [The Literacy Hub](#). The checklist allows families to see how their Year 1 child is developing in learning to read in English**

**Free online resources to support reading at home:**

**Parent resources [Five from Five](#) | [Storyline Online - Home](#)**

**Free decodable readers are available on the [SPELD SA website](#).**