

# Transition to school

## How to get involved

As a parent, you play a vital role in your child's education. By getting involved in the school you can help your child make a smooth and happy start to their education.

You can do this by:

- introducing yourself to your child's teacher
- sharing information with your child's teacher
- keeping the teacher informed of any changes that may affect your child
- talking with your child about their day
- attending parent information sessions
- reading the school newsletter
- checking school bulletin boards
- attending family fun days
- participating in a safe walking to school program with other children or families who live nearby
- attending parent association meetings and talking to other parents
- volunteering to attend school excursions or participate in classroom activities
- participating in school working bees.

### Things you can do at home

You can also help your child progress at school by taking some simple steps at home:

- Take an interest in your child's schooling and value the importance of attending. Ask your child over dinner: 'What new things did you do at school today?'
- Read aloud to your child. Reading aloud helps develop the imagination, because it allows listeners to form a picture in their minds. It also helps develop an awareness of the patterns of language.
- Provide a variety of experiences to stimulate your child's imagination — for example, visit the zoo, park or airport.

- Play card games and board games with your child. This helps to develop mathematical, problem-solving, language and social skills such as turn-taking and not always winning.
- Spend time together as a family — activities such as shopping, going to the park or working in the garden build children's awareness and knowledge of the world around them as well as develop language skills.
- Find opportunities to write with your child. This includes making lists for grocery shopping or things to take on trips and writing letters. These opportunities build children's awareness of vocabulary and the importance of reading and writing.
- Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes together with your child.
- Show respect for your child's natural curiosity. Be patient and try to find the time to answer the many questions they ask or make ways to find answers together.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for packing and unpacking his or her school bag each day.



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# Literacy and Numeracy **Fact sheet**

## Supporting your child

## What is literacy?

Literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows us to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world.

### Why is literacy important?

Literacy is vital to ensuring your child has the best chance to succeed in their schooling and everyday life. Literacy allows us to make sense of a range of written, visual and spoken texts including books, newspapers, magazines, timetables, DVDs, television and radio programs, signs, maps, conversations and instructions.

### Ways to support your child's literacy development

Research has shown that children's motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage literacy learning. These include:

- valuing and encouraging your child's efforts with literacy
- sharing your knowledge and explaining how you use literacy in your everyday life
- encouraging your child to read and view a variety of texts such as newspapers, novels, comics, magazines, websites, email, timetables, instructions and recipes
- encouraging your child to write and design for a variety of purposes using print and electronic resources — invitations, thank you notes, shopping lists, messages, journals and electronic slide shows
- encouraging your child to speak and listen for a variety of purposes — sharing a joke, giving instructions or asking for information
- sharing a love of language
- discussing how texts look different depending on the purpose and audience — for example, text messaging uses different spelling from school projects
- talking about things that you have read or viewed that were amusing, interesting or useful
- discussing favourite authors, producers, directors or illustrators and what you like about them
- discussing new and unusual words or phrases and exploring these through print and electronic dictionaries
- playing games that develop knowledge and enjoyment of words
- making use of community resources for information, local and school libraries, clubs, community groups and websites.

## Literacy Fact sheet

# Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

Literacy is an essential skill that children need to succeed in their everyday lives. As a parent or carer, and your child's first teacher, you have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting your child's learning – from the time they are an infant through to adulthood.

When your child starts school, it is critical for you to continue to play an active role in helping to develop your child's literacy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

### Your vital role as a parent or carer

You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child's understanding of literacy from an early age. For example, having books in the home and reading these with your child; taking your child on trips to the grocery store; reading the signs and labels on products; and having your child help you prepare meals by reading out the recipe and instructions can familiarise them with reading and writing.

Ensuring that your child feels confident talking to you and their teacher about school work will enhance their opportunity to thrive in the 21st century.

### What literacy skills will your child learn at school?

In the first years of school, children learn through interactions with others, experimentation, scaffolding, explicit teaching, practice and play in the classroom and beyond. Your child's teacher will identify what they already know and can do, and will extend their knowledge and skills through new and challenging situations.

An important aim of the Prep Year is to build on your child's previous experiences with new and different learning opportunities at school. Teachers help students to connect their home language with spoken and written English used in the classroom and other environments.

The development of students' literacy skills is a very important component of the Australian Curriculum from Prep to Year 2. This is because literacy is the foundation for further learning. Children's literacy skills are mostly built in English but are reinforced and strengthened through all their learning.

In English, children listen, read, view, speak and write in a broad range of activities. They are explicitly taught strategies for beginning reading, writing and spelling. They learn how to speak and write in different situations and read a range of texts for different purposes.





## Literacy Fact sheet

### Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.

### Activities to do with your child

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the literacy skills they learn at school:

- keep blank paper and pencils handy at home for writing activities
- read with and to your child every day
- have your child collect and sort the mail — who are the letters for and who are they from?
- create a collage using junk mail, old magazines or your child's drawings with a particular focus — this could include pictures of things beginning with an 's' sound or all pictures showing a particular colour
- make a scrapbook — this could be about a holiday or special event, and have your child write captions for the photos and pictures
- make your kitchen a 'cooking' zone and a 'reading' zone — use fridge magnets to make new words and short sentences, or have your child write the weekly shopping list and read names on packages
- play word games and do crosswords to help develop spelling and vocabulary
- keep a dictionary in an easily accessible place — show your child how it can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed while word processing on a computer
- make the writing of letters, notes, cards or emails a daily family activity — you can write notes to your child and encourage them to write notes back to you.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map) or contact your child's teacher or school.

## Literacy Activity sheet

# Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the literacy skills they learn at school.



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– this could be about a holiday or special event and have your child write captions for the photos and pictures.

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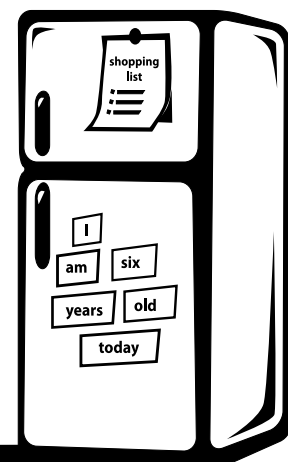


Have your child **collect and sort the mail** – who are the letters for and who are they from?



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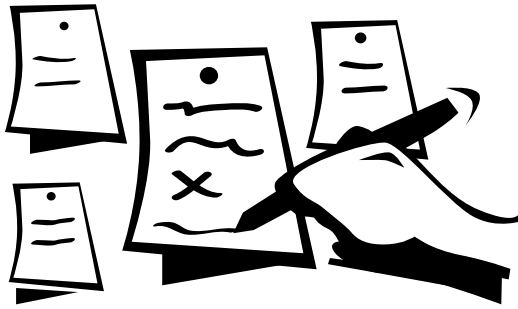
**Make your kitchen** a 'cooking' zone and a 'reading' zone – use fridge magnets to make new words and short sentences, have your child write the weekly shopping list and read names on packages.



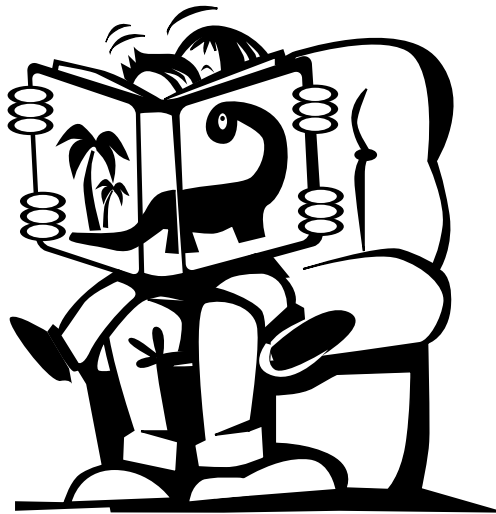


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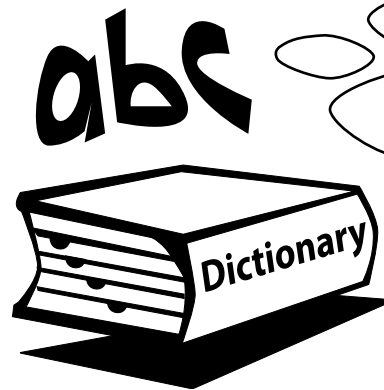
### Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2



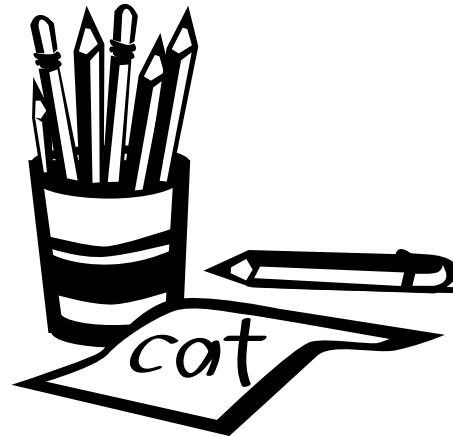
Make the **writing of letters, notes, cards or emails** a daily family activity – you can write notes to your child and encourage them to write notes back to you.



**Read** with and to your child everyday.



**Keep a dictionary** in an easily accessible place – show your child how it can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed while word processing on a computer.



Keep blank paper and pencils handy at home for **writing activities**.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map) or contact your child's teacher or school.

# Literacy and Numeracy Fact sheet

## Supporting your child

# What is numeracy?

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

## Why is numeracy important?

Numeracy enables you to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in your daily life. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of time, numbers, patterns and shapes for activities like cooking, reading a map or bill, reading instructions and even playing sport.

## Ways to support your child's numeracy development

Research has shown that children's motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage numeracy learning. These include:

- encouraging your child to use mathematical language — how much, how big, how small, how many
- discussing the use of numbers, patterns and shapes in your day-to-day life — numbers found on library books, spatial patterns or shapes in playgrounds, in the home and architecture
- talking about occasions when you are using mathematics in daily jobs and real-life situations — cooking, map reading, building and playing sport
- exploring situations using money such as shopping, budgets and credit cards
- estimating, measuring and comparing lengths and heights, how heavy or light things are and how much containers hold
- talking about different ways to solve a problem
- using everyday tools like tape measures or kitchen scales and discussing the units of measure
- asking 'does that make sense?', 'is the answer reasonable?' or 'what other ways could we do this?'
- observing and using timetables, calendars and clocks for different purposes like study periods, holiday planning and catching public transport
- helping your child to work out how much things cost and what change they will receive
- playing number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- organising, categorising and counting collections of things like toys, books, clothing and shoes.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy and numeracy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map) or contact your child's teacher or school.

## Numeracy Fact sheet

# Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

**Numeracy is an essential skill that children need to succeed in their everyday lives. As a parent or carer and your child's first teacher, you have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting your child's learning – from the time they are an infant through to adulthood.**

When your child starts school, it is critical for you to continue to play an active role in helping to develop your child's numeracy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

### Your vital role as a parent or carer

You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child's understanding of numeracy from an early age. For example, counting objects like buttons on their clothes and talking about time and shapes can familiarise them with mathematics.

Ensuring that your child feels confident talking to you and their teacher about their school work will enhance their opportunity to thrive in the 21st century.

### What numeracy skills will your child learn at school?

In the first years of school, children learn through hands-on activities. Your child's teacher will identify what they already know and can do, and will extend their knowledge and skills through new and challenging situations.

An important aim of the Prep year is to build on your child's previous experiences with new and different learning opportunities at school. Your child will explore fundamental aspects of mathematics such as 'how many', mass, length, size, shape, sequence, order and patterns.

In Years 1– 2 students use mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems and communicate their reasoning. They use a variety of strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, fractions and percentages. Students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of size, shape, position and movement of both two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) shapes and objects. Students also develop an increasingly sophisticated ability to critically evaluate information and develop intuitions about data.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.







## Numeracy Fact sheet

### Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

#### Activities to do with your child

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the numeracy skills they learn at school:

- count the money in your child's moneybox each week — take it to the bank and help them deposit the money
- record your child's growth on a height chart
- make a home supermarket using empty grocery items and packets — attach price tags, then play a shopping game where your child can purchase items and calculate the change they will receive
- estimate, measure and compare lengths and heights, how heavy or light objects are and how much containers hold — for example, how many cups do you think it will take to fill the bucket with sand?
- play number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- discuss the prices of items in shopping catalogues and junk mail
- count everything — toys, the number of pegs needed to hang clothes on the line and the number of buttons on your clothes
- take your child on a 'number hunt' in your home or community — point out how numbers are used on everyday household items such as the telephone, or your house number in the street
- talk about time — ask your child to check the time on the clock when they go to school, eat meals, watch their favourite television program and go to bed
- play 'I spy' and look for different shapes and colours — 'I spy something that is round' or 'I spy something that is rectangular'
- go on a 'shape hunt' — have your child look for as many circles, squares, triangles and rectangles as they can find in the home or in the yard
- use public transport to read timetables, look at routes on a map or figure out the number of stops the bus or train would need to make before you get to your destination

For more information about how you can help your child with numeracy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/) or contact your child's teacher or school.

## Numeracy Activity sheet

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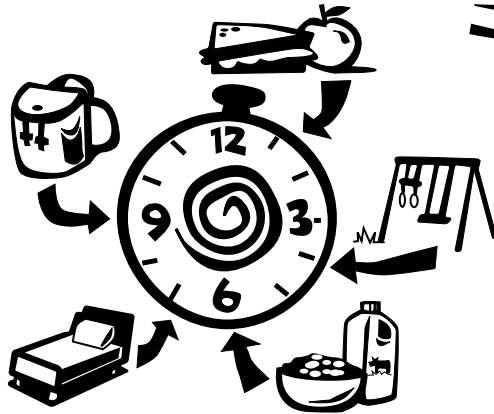


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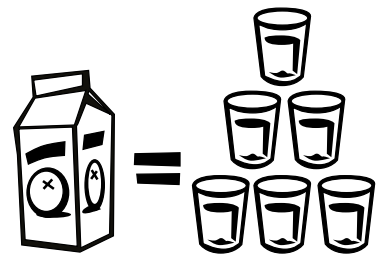


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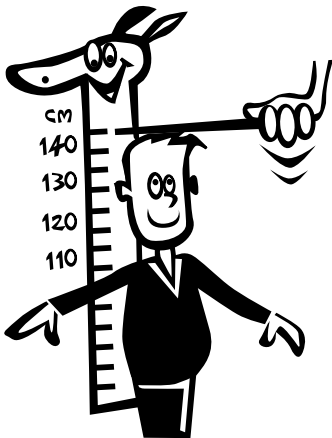
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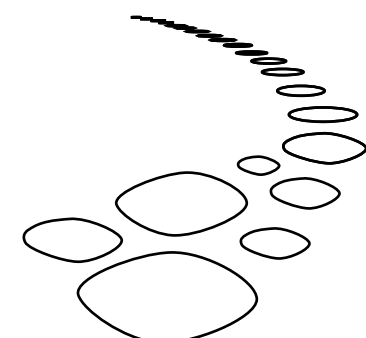
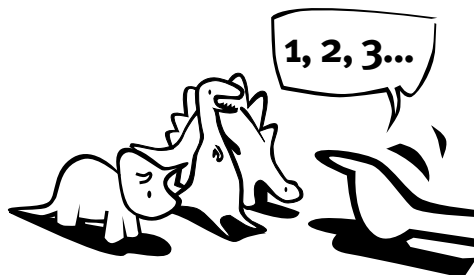
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**Estimate, measure and compare** lengths and heights, how heavy or light objects are and how much containers hold – for example, how many cups do you think it will take to fill the bucket with sand?



Record your child's growth on a **height chart**.

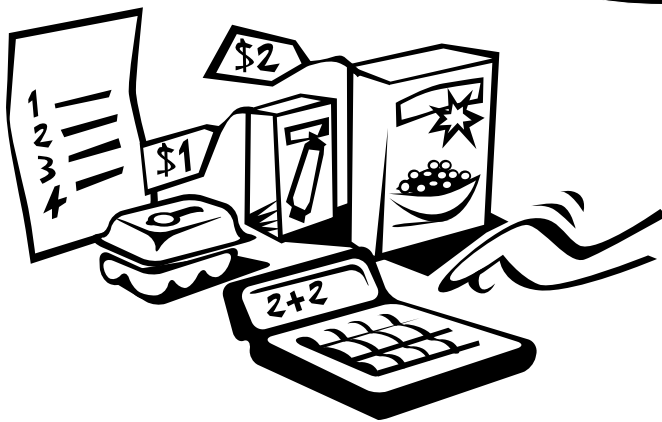




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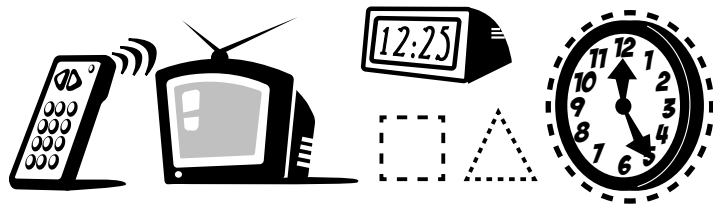
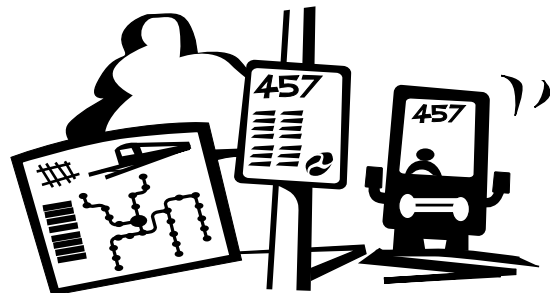
### Supporting your child in Prep to Year 2

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**Use public transport** to read timetables, look at routes on a map or figure out the number of stops the bus or train would need to make before you get to your destination.



Take your child on a **'number and shape hunt'** in your home or community — point out how numbers and shapes are used on everyday household items such as the telephone or your house number in the street.

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