



An Australian Government Initiative

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# A TO Z FAMILY LITERACY AND NUMERACY IDEAS



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Here are some ideas and activities for building and encouraging your child's literacy and numeracy skills:

**A**sk your child to weigh and measure ingredients for your recipes both in the supermarket and at home.

**B**anking and interest rates could be discussed; how budgets work at home and in the workplace.

**C**reate a special reading place in your home with your child's favourite books within easy reach. Let your child help decorate it with patterns, shapes and designs.

**D**emonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

**E**ncourage estimating skills, such as predicting how long a journey will take; how long it takes to set the table; how long it takes to walk the length of your street.

**F**amily joke journals can be created by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes. Perhaps publish them in a word document.

**G**ive time to reading aloud to your child, no matter how proficient he or she may be.

**H**ave a new word each hour for a week to develop your child's range of words. How about doing this in both your home language and English? Make a game of it.

**I**nvolve your child in everyday conversations. Ask his or her opinion and reasons for answers.

**J**oining the Premier's Reading Challenge really encourages reading, spelling and vocabulary skills.

**K**eep teenagers of all ages reading and writing. Give them magazines and newspaper articles about things that interest them: sport, music, fashion, TV and computers.

**L**et your child count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of numeracy in everyday life whenever you can.

**M**easure things around the home: the difference between a towel, a hand-towel and a face cloth; the size of your dining table; the amount of food for your pet each day and calculate how much it eats in a week.

**N**ews and documentaries on TV and in the newspaper are excellent opportunities to develop talking and listening skills by discussing significant issues or events.

**O**rganise a children's book club or board game club with friends in your neighbourhood.

**P**lay games such as *Monopoly*, *Snakes and Ladders*, dominoes or cards. Using two dice instead of one when playing board games can help with addition and subtraction.

**Q**uestions that only require a "yes" or a "no" are boring. Ask ones that need a longer answer or require your child to give reasons for a decision.

**R**emember that children learn by example. Think how you can set positive models of literacy and numeracy at home. Teach your child how to measure in your home language.

**S**port offers opportunities for exploring literacy and numeracy. Calculate scores. Write a letter of encouragement to a sports person. Listen to sports programs and discuss the scores, angles of shots and probable results. Discuss camera shots and effects.

**T**urn off the TV for a while and talk to your child in your home language about some of the issues in the TV programs or things that have recently happened in society.

**U**se the computer as a research and learning tool. There are many sites to help your child practise his or her skills. Use it as a dictionary, a thesaurus or to check spelling.

**V**iewing films and talking about any issues will greatly expand your child's thinking.

**W**orking out how much time it takes to do things or go somewhere using a timetable will give your child opportunities to calculate.

**X**-ercise your mind like a muscle! Let your child see you calculating things without a calculator.

**Y**ou are the key to improving your child's literacy and numeracy skills. Place a high priority on them in your home.

**Z**ip up to your local library with your child and borrow books, magazines and listening tapes.