

Reading at home

Supporting
your child's
learning at
Year 1

Make reading fun

Reading at home should be fun and easy. It should be something you both look forward to and a time for laughter and talk.

- Share the reading, take turns, or see whether your child wants to read or be read to today.
- All children like to be read to, so keep reading to them. You can read in your first language.
- Visit the library together and help them choose books to share.
- Read messages from family or whānau aloud.
- Play games together and discuss any unfamiliar words that come up during them.



Here's a tip: talk a lot with your child while you are doing things together. Use the language that works best for you and your child. Praise their effort.

Talk about reading

- Sing waiata and songs, read poems, say nursery rhymes, and make up rhymes together (the funnier the better).
- Be a role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading. Talk about what you are reading.
- Talk about content that you both might read or watch or that your child reads and watches. Ask about characters personalities, storylines, and events.
- Talk about the pictures in picture books and how they are part of the story.
- Point out words on signs, shops, and labels.
- Play word games like "I spy" and "Simon says".

Make it a special time together

Reading is a great chance for you and your child to spend special time together.

Make reading:

- quiet and relaxing
- a time to sit close to your child
- interruption-free for 10 to 15 minutes
- an enjoyable, interesting, and special time
- a time to praise your child for making an effort.



Here's a tip: if your child is stuck on a word, wait a few seconds then ask them to sound out the word. Get them to break the word up into each sound e.g. c-a-t then blend the word together. Ask them if that word then makes sense in the sentence. If they miss a sound, get

them to try again and get all the sounds in the word. If they don't know what the word means talk to them about the meaning. Help your child to link stories they read to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.

Writing at home

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Make writing fun

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter.
- Let your child see you writing – you can use your first language.
- Encourage them to write shopping lists or make birthday cards.
- Water and a paintbrush on a dry path or a stick in the sand are fun ways to write letters and words.
- Support the learning of letters and sounds using appropriate apps.



Here's a tip: it is important that they have fun when writing at home and that they keep trying. If they get letters backwards, or words misspelt, praise them for trying and encourage them to have another look at it. If letters are backwards, you can write the correct letter somewhere for them to copy.

Encourage writing

- Have felt pens, pencils, crayons, paper, or a device available.
- Use milk bottle tops with letters on them to create words.
- Put magnetic letters on the fridge and ask what words they can make with the letters.

Give them reasons to write

- Write to each other. Write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like their lunch box. Ask them to write a reply.
- Help them message family, whānau or friends.
- Work with them to put labels on special things – like the door to their room or their lunch box.



Here's a tip: display their work. Put it on the fridge. Be proud of it. Share it with others.

Talk about their writing

- Talk about the letters in your child's name and where the name comes from.
- Help them create a scrapbook with pictures. Encourage them to write short sentences or stories under the pictures and talk to you about them.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw on paper or on a device. Or get them to tell you the story and you write or type it under the picture.



Here's a tip: talk to your child about what they write. Be interested. If you don't understand what your child's sentence or story is about, ask them to tell you about it.



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