

Literacy

Families and teachers: the early childhood and primary school curricula use different strategies to help children develop their literacy skills.

Help children develop literacy skills, like learning letters and how to read, while playing, or watching educational shows like *Sesame Street* together.



Watch together

While you're watching *Sesame Street* or other educational content together, listen out for interesting words and sounds.

Play word games

- For pre-school children, make up a list of words that start with the same sound together. Or, clap the syllables or beats you hear in words.
- Primary school children can make up a list of words that end with the same sound or have similar consonant blends (e.g., "fr" & "bl") or digraphs (e.g., "ch," "th" & "sh").
- Listen for rhyming words (words that sound the same at the end), words that sound similar, funny words and new words you can learn about together.
- Then, have fun playing rhyming games. "I say 'run' you say ___" (made-up words are ok). Then, progress to having them listen for rhyming words in poems.
- After watching, write a different ending or write about what they think might happen next.



Play and learn together

Let's read

- Read to and with children of all ages.
- While reading, point to the words so children start to understand that written words correspond with words we speak.
- Invite pre-school children to find a few simple sight words like "at," "the," "and;" or sound out short, simple words.
- Primary school children can read words or simple sentences with you.
- Point out common signs and words around you at school and home.
- Children can picture read or read their favourite books to their classmates, family members or favourite toys.

I spy

- Play 'I spy.' Look for letters, special signs or words while doing errands.
- You can give each other clues to help too. For pre-schoolers you might say, "I spy the letter that makes the "b" sound." For those in primary school you might say, "I spy a word that rhymes with "hat" or ends in "er."



Talk together

While you're talking together, point out interesting things you hear. Highlight:

- The rhyming words you heard
- Words that sound similar
- Words that start with children's favourite letter or sound



Links to Sesame Street content

Here are some related songs on YouTube you can sing together:

- ✓ ["Sesame Street: What Rhymes with Mando?"](#)
- ✓ ["Sesame Street: Sing the Alphabet Song! | Sesame Street Alphabet"](#)
- ✓ ["Sesame Street: The Alphabet With Elmo and India Arie"](#)
- ✓ ["Sesame Street: Abc Hip Hop With Miles"](#)

Visit [Sesame Workshop](#)

for many more related activities, printables, and video-based suggestions like:

- ✓ ["Building and Rebuilding Language Skills - and Community"](#)
- ✓ ["Reading"](#)

to play online games like:

- ✓ [rhyming games](#)
- ✓ [reading games](#)
- ✓ ["Words are Everywhere"](#)
- ✓ ["Word Play"](#)
- ✓ ["Big Bird and Stuffie's Letter Dance Party"](#)



Links to find out more together

Local resources

- ✓ [The Ministry of Education and Youth's Game-Based & Interactive Learning Activities for Early Years](#)
- ✓ [Curricular resources](#) like the Resource Book and curriculum guides from the Early Childhood Commission
- ✓ Digital library Book Fusion has free books <https://www.bookfusion.com/libraries/MO EYI>
- ✓ Children's books: [I Can Do My Part](https://bit.ly/icandomypart) (<https://bit.ly/icandomypart>) and [I Have Feelings](https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings) (<https://bit.ly/ihavefeelings>)
- ✓ <http://bit.ly/littleleaderspages> has printables and activities aligned with the early childhood curriculum. The July–September 2018 folders have a handout series about reading and comprehension.

Other resources

- ✓ [Global Digital Library](#) has 6,000+ free books in over 83 languages) (<https://digitallibrary.io/>)
- ✓ [Room to Read's](#) free digital library (<https://literacycloud.org/>)
- ✓ Free decodable books and other resources based on the progression Jolly Phonics uses <https://www.speldsa.org.au/SPELD-SA-Phonic-Readers-New-Series>