

# Supporting young children's early literacy development

## Encouraging and supporting your child to read at home

Parents can support their children's literacy development at home by:

- talking to children as much as possible
- joining in – playing and talking with children
- asking their children what they did at kindergarten or school
- singing songs
- reading the writing on cereal boxes and other packets in the kitchen
- discussing recipes and talking about how food is prepared
- encouraging children to write their own shopping lists
- encouraging children to fetch items from the supermarket shelf
- writing messages on sticky notes and leaving on refrigerator or wall
- look at the junk mail together
- having lots of books in the home
- joining the local library and borrowing books
- reading and writing with the children
- looking at magazines and comics together
- reading and telling a story every day
- watching television together, such as – 'Playschool' and other children's programs
- writing cards and letters – get children to write their own messages and sign their names
- recognising familiar landmarks
- sending birthday cards and postcards

- asking questions such as ‘what does d-o-g spell?’
- writing children’s names for them – in your own language as well as English
- reading the names on billboards/signs such as:
  - ‘MacDonalds’
  - ‘BP’
  - ‘Shell’
  - ‘Stop’.
- reading the names, letters and numbers on shirts of sport stars
- reading bumper stickers, car number plates, street signs, store logos
- sticking magnetic alphabet letters on the refrigerator
- keeping dates on a calendar – mark children’s events on the calendar and talk to children about them.

### **Encouraging your children to love books and reading**

Children like to own books, to talk about books and enjoy reading and being read to. You can encourage your child to love books and reading by:

- buying books from second hand shops, ‘trash and treasure’ markets and fetes
- asking friends to give you their books when children grow out of them
- borrowing books from the library, school or kindergarten
- asking for relatives to give books for presents
- offering to read and tell stories at your kindergarten or school
- making your own books with children from scrap paper
- getting the children to draw the pictures for the books
- reading stories, folk tales, poetry, songs, funny stories
- showing children factual books, wildlife magazines
- borrowing CDs & cassettes from the local library.

## **Department of Human Services – Koorie Early Childhood Education Program**