

Supporting your child's reading in Prep

Learning to read is a significant milestone in any child's life, and one that will bring many benefits over an entire lifetime. You play an important role in modelling reading behaviours and supporting your child's reading efforts. You make a difference to how your child will discover the world of literacy and how they view themselves as a reader.

What can you do to help your child become a reader?

What can you do to help support your child's reading skills?

In Prep your child will:



Vocabulary knowledge

- ✓ increase their range of vocabulary
- ✓ explore a range of listening, speaking and writing opportunities

Comprehension

- ✓ ask questions about their knowledge of the topic of a story
- ✓ make connections between what they know and a story
- ✓ predict and draw an event in a story

Phonemic awareness

- ✓ explore individual sounds in words
- ✓ alter sounds in spoken language

Concepts about print

- ✓ know direction of written words
- ✓ explore features of picture books

Phonics

- ✓ understand the relationship between printed letters and speech sounds
- ✓ match letters with sounds

Ways you can help your child's reading in Prep

Model reading Let your child see you reading, read to yourself and read to your child – often.

Join your local library Find out where it is and what programs and activities they offer, and of course borrow books regularly! Librarians are full of ideas about which books your child might enjoy reading.

Make time for reading Make regular time for reading, even if it is only ten minutes a day!

Sing! Singing nursery rhymes, jingles and fun chants helps your child have fun with language and to develop their phonological awareness. Even making up silly songs is great for literacy development – have fun with words!

Sounds like Play talking games that require your child to hear the same beginning sounds, for example, 'Let's look for all the things in the fridge that begin with the *mmmm* sound', or 'I can think of lots of words that start with *ssssss*, snake, Sammy, silly, can you think of more?'

Encourage and praise Reading should be enjoyable for you and your child. Always encourage their attempts and praise their efforts.

Talk to your child's teacher about how you can support your child's reading.