



Helping your Child Improve in Literacy and Numeracy



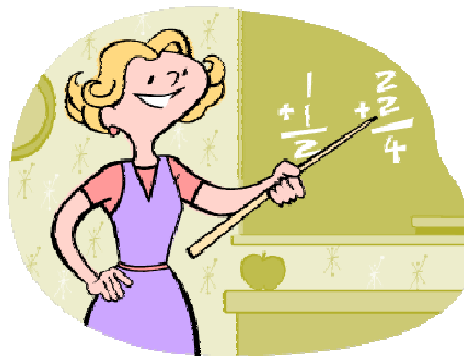
*Good study habits lead to success
not only in school, but all through life.*

Helping Your Child Improve in Numeracy

Why is Numeracy important?

People use numbers for many different reasons:

- using money
- to manage finances for living
- to solve problems
- to manage one's time
- for work purposes
- to be able to read and interpret data presented in tables, charts and graphs



More broadly, numeracy is about being able to use measurement, number, data, shape and space in everyday life. The skills learnt in Mathematics help to develop a person's ability to solve problems and improve their logical thinking strategies which are valuable lifelong skills. We use Numeracy Skills everyday from when we go shopping, compare petrol prices, read the time, follow a timetable/schedule, use a budget, find percentages, calculate interest, read and follow recipes and in many other situations. Many jobs and tertiary courses require competency numeracy or mathematics.

Ways parents can help students improve in Numeracy:

- Try to sit down and share the evening meal with your family as often as possible. Turn off all electronic distractions (including mobile phones) and talk to your children about their day. Ask lots of open ended questions to encourage conversation. Really discuss what is being learnt in mathematics classes, how it is being learnt and how your child feels they are going with their learning.
- Encourage the use of online resources such as Maths Online, Mathletics, MILP Collaborative Space on the Ultranet,
- Encourage your children to look over work the work they have done at school and keep an organized workbook
- Encourage your children to bring their diary home each day and record important dates and reminders in there
- Have discussions about everyday maths that may be regularly on the news such as petrol prices, interest rates, discuss timetables, schedules, tell the time in analogue and digital time
- When you are watching TV or reading the newspaper talk about the Mathematics that maybe apparent and how it links to them
- Assist your children to ask good questions



Helping Your Child Improve in Literacy

Why is Literacy important?

People read and write for many different reasons:

- for pleasure and interest
- to keep in touch with family and friends
- to learn about the world and to communicate their thoughts to others
- for work purposes
- to obtain and use information that will help them solve problems and make choices and decisions
- for active and informed citizenship



More broadly, literacy is about how we communicate and access information to help build knowledge. It is about social practices and relationships, about information, knowledge, language, and culture. Those who are literate may take it for granted – but those who are not are excluded from much of the communication and information in today's world.

Ways parents can help students improve their Literacy:

- Sit down and share the evening meal with your family as often as possible. Turn off all electronic distractions (including mobile phones) and talk to your children about their day. Ask lots of open ended questions to encourage conversation.
- Join the local library with your children and visit regularly
- Visit bookshops together, shop for books online
- Talk to your children about what they are reading and where they are reading it: in books, newspapers, on blogs, websites etc.
- Read the novels your children are studying at school so you can discuss them together
- If you watch TV with your children, hit mute during the ad breaks and discuss the program you are watching. Or watch the ads and see who can be first to identify the product or service being sold or promoted and identify what techniques the advertisers are using (e.g. emotive language, appeals to health, safety, financial concerns etc.)
- Encourage your children to read novels that you enjoyed at their age. Reread one yourself and discuss it with your child.
- Turn off the TV and the computers and have a Board Game Day/Night. Challenge your children at Scrabble, Boggle, Articulate, Trivial Pursuit, Pictionary, Balderdash or Monopoly.
- Encourage your children to write letters and emails (to distant relatives or friends), shopping lists, to-do lists, Christmas lists, invitations etc.
- When reading the newspaper seek out articles on issues that are relevant and interesting, then discuss these stories with your children
- Buy your children a subscription to their favourite magazine as a birthday present
- Discuss, define and use the 'academic vocabulary' students are using in all their school subjects

How parents can help with Literacy and Numeracy Homework

- Its important to provide a suitable space for children to complete homework task, remove any electronic distractions
- Ensure children have all the equipment necessary to complete school work (full pencil case, dictionary, calculator etc)
- Encourage a regular daily time to examine and complete homework
- Discuss key questions or suggest resources to help with homework
- Help to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities
- Ask how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success
- Attend school events, productions or displays
- Talk to teachers to discuss problems with homework
- Check whether homework has been set and encourage children to keep a homework diary
- Discuss homework with children in their first language (if English is not the main language spoken at home).
- Ask them to explain or teach you what you they have been learning at school
- Help organize a homework timetable/schedule
- Sight homework and give only minimal help

Helpful Literacy and Numeracy Links

Better Health Channel - Parents are children's most influential teacher and can encourage them in many ways to enjoy using their language skills. This website provides tips on how you can help your children develop listening and speaking skills.

http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Literacy_and_children?open

Children's Book Council of Australia - supports programs to engage young Australians with literature. The site recommends books and resources to help parents support children's reading.

<http://cbca.org.au/Default.aspx>

FUSE - find a large range of interactive online tools and games for literacy and numeracy.

<https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/secondary/pages/Default.aspx>

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge - a reading program for students from Prep to Year 10.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/default.htm>

Mathletics – online maths activities with support and a mathematics dictionary. Students select activities or complete activities assigned to them by their teacher. Mathletics Live is a component that works on the students mental maths skills. www.mathletics.com.au

Maths Online – online resource to interactive lessons and worked examples followed by tasks for students to complete
www.mathsonline.com.au

Ultrahet – access to a range of collaborative spaces created by teachers and the learning task area where tasks are allocated to students
www.ultranet.vic.edu.au

