Literacy in the Early Years

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/developing_literacy.html

Literacy is most commonly understood as reading and writing. But before children can read and write, they need to learn about sounds, words, language, books and stories. You have a vital role to play in helping your child with early literacy development.

Encouraging literacy development

The growth of literacy skills is a vital part of your child’s overall development. It’s the foundation for doing well at school, socialising with others, developing independence, managing money and working.

But before your child learns to read and write, he needs to develop the building blocks for literacy – the ability to speak, listen, understand, watch and draw.

With time, and your support, your child will also come to understand the connection between letters on a page and spoken sounds. For this to happen, she’ll need plenty of experience with:

- pictures and objects – how you can use words to talk about them
- letters and words – their shapes, sounds and names
- sounds – how words can rhyme, begin and end with the same letters, be broken up into parts (for example, syllables), be formed by blending different sounds, and so on.

This will prepare your child for school, when he starts learning the more formal aspects of literacy.

You can help your child’s literacy development by communicating with her, reading with her and teaching her about sounds in ways that are fun for both of you.

The language experiences that children have before they start school form multiple and powerful brain connections. These connections are used for language, thinking and understanding. Without activities like talking, singing and reading, the brain doesn’t develop this rich network of connections.

Communicating: its importance in literacy development

Bonding and interacting with your baby or child helps create a sense of security in him, and a desire for him to interact with you in return.

You might notice your baby responds to your smiles and baby talk. She might try to imitate your sounds and facial expressions. When you repeat your toddler’s babble, it lets her know she’s communicating. Singing to her teaches her about the rise and fall of sounds. It also introduces her to the music and stories of her culture.

All of these back-and-forth interactions are getting your child ready for talking and socialising.

What you can do

- Copy the sounds your baby makes and don’t be afraid to use baby talk – it helps babies understand how language is put together.
- Sing with your child.
- Talk to your child about the everyday things you’re doing and seeing together. For example, ‘Let’s get the washing now’, ‘Look at the red bird’ or ‘Yum, what a nice lunch we’re having’.
- Name people, items at the supermarket and special features on different objects – for example, the velcro on shoes or buttons on a shirt.
- Talk about feelings and chat about whether your child is happy or sad. You can help out by giving him the words to describe his emotions. This can help him understand how others feel too.
• Listen to your child. Follow her lead and talk about things she brings up. If she asks a question, give her the chance to come up with answers before you step in. For example, you can respond by saying, 'What do you think that is?', 'What do you think it's used for?'

• Share stories with your child. You could share funny or interesting stories from your childhood or tell him about your family’s past. You could take turns creating a story together.

• As your child gets older, teach her that words can be broken down into segments. For example, ‘man’ is made up of m-a-n. Also show how parts of spoken words can be blended to produce whole words. For example, r-u-n or r-un or ru-n makes ‘run’.

• You can also play a game that gets your child thinking about the different sounds in words. For example, ‘Say the word butter. Say it again but don’t say “but”’. Your child might say ‘er’ or ‘ter’. This helps your child understand that words are made up of sounds.

Reading: its importance in literacy development

It’s a good idea to read with your child often – you can start from birth onwards. Children who have had experiences with language and print from an early age are more likely to develop a solid literacy foundation.

Reading with your child:

• gives you enjoyable time with him as you share an activity, looking at pictures and playing with words
• helps him start to appreciate what books have to offer, and shows him that books can give both pleasure and information
• helps him learn the sounds of letters in spoken language
• helps him understand that stories aren’t coming from you, but from the words on the page – this teaches him about how the printed word works
• helps him develop a larger vocabulary, which increases his understanding, pleasure and interest in reading (this is because books offer more unusual words than are used in everyday language or on television)
• improves his thinking and problem-solving skills
• can start a conversation about a new concept, an event or something that interests your child.

What you can do

• Read with your child. You can start from birth, but it’s never too late to begin.
• When your child is old enough, encourage her to hold the book and turn the pages. This will help her start to understand that the book should be a certain way up, and that pages are always turned in the same direction.
• Slide your finger along underneath the words as you read them, pointing out each word. This indicates to your child that we always start on the left and move to the right when reading English, helping him start to understand the rules of reading.
• Point out pictures and talk about the pictures your child points to.
• Make the sounds of animals or other objects in the book – have fun!

Rhyme: its importance in literacy development

Rhyming is a great way to teach children the connection between the sound of a word and how it’s written.

What you can do

• Play games that involve rhyming. Rhyming words helps children appreciate beginning and ending sounds – for example, ‘cat, pat and mat’. You can play them at any time – in the car, while shopping or at the dinner table.
• Play games that involve the sound and rhythm of words. You could try ‘I Spy’ and tongue twisters such as ‘She sells seashells by the seashore’.
• Read rhyming books, such as The Cat in the Hat or Doodledum Dancing.
From The P&C President...

Our next P&C Meeting is on Tuesday 16th August @ 6.30pm in the school staffroom. All Welcome.

The P&C will be holding a Movie Night on Friday 5th August at 5.30pm on the school the Tennis Courts.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability

Collecting data on school students with a disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disabilities in schooling on the same basis as students without a disability. All State Governments across Australia have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with a disability. All Australian schools participate in the annual data collection conducted in August. The data collected at school is:

- Number of students in the school provided with an adjustment to address a disability.
- Level of adjustments we provide for the students
- Broad category of disability

Please be assured that the data collected does not identify particular children, however if you do not wish your child’s details to be included, please contact Miss Priddle or Miss Conroy.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>29th July</td>
<td>U/8’s Day Blackwater CH Athletics Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th August</td>
<td>Student Leaders Mayoral Summit Blackwater – Yr 5 &amp; 6 students</td>
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<td>5th August</td>
<td>P&amp;C Movie Night</td>
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<td>21st – 25th August</td>
<td>ICPA Sports Camp</td>
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<td>Week 6 TBC</td>
<td>Parent Information Night - Numeracy</td>
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<td>29th August to 2nd September</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
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<td>2nd September</td>
<td>Footy Colours Day</td>
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<td>5th September</td>
<td>Year 6 ESHS Transition Day</td>
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<td>6-9th September</td>
<td>Eisteddfod Emerald</td>
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<td>16th-18th September</td>
<td>Attendance Awards &amp; Celebration Day Comet River Campdraft</td>
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Terry’s Roster

Monday morning 7.30-11.30am
Tuesday morning 7.30-11.30am
Thursday 7.30am-2.30pm
Please make payments during these times.

Thank you.

NOTES & QUOTES

- The Comet Playgroup is held every Wednesday at Comet SS from 9am. All families welcome.
- The School Mobile Number is: 0477 371 234 for those needed to contact the school outside of school hours
- As the weather is starting to cool down and the mornings are very crisp, please remind students to come to school in appropriate warm clothing that is in the school colours of black or red (with no brand logos). Thank you 😊
- The Term 3 Parent Information Night will be held in Week 6, the focus for this session will be the teaching of Numeracy.
- Q Parents: Miss Terry attended training for Q Parents this week. Please contact the school for more information.

Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding.

- Robert John Meehan

ssSpecial Birthday wishes to Dekoda, Mrs Ash and Miss Conroy! We hope you had a wonderful day 😊
**Comet SS Fete and Market Day 2016 News!**

* P-2 Jar Stall - If anyone would happen to have some jars and or small items to place in the jars please drop into the P-2 classroom. All help is appreciated!

* 3-6 Plant Stall – Thank you to Mrs Vermeer for helping with our Plant Stall and keeping our plants alive. If you have any cuttings, seedlings, seeds or any pots or potting mix that you would like to donate, we would appreciate it very much!

**Our Attendance for Term 3 is:**

**98%!!**

_We all have a key role in ensuring all students attend school every day._

![Daily Attendance Graph]

Why is regular attendance at school important? Regular school attendance will mean that your child gets a better chance at being successful in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day:

- They learn better
- They make friends
- They are happier
- They have a brighter future.

**Our Attendance Goal for the end of Semester 2 is 95%**

Remember: **Every Day Counts!**

Visit the following link for more information about Attendance:

http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/resources.html

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**A Peek at our Week in 3-6**

We had Mrs Hutton in the classroom this week while Miss Priddle was away at training. Mrs Hutton said that she loves coming to Comet to teach and reports that all students worked very well.

In Grammar & Punctuation this week the 3-6 students revised their knowledge of contractions. We know that contractions are two words that are shortened to one word where some words are usually replaced by an apostrophe. Some examples are: Can not becomes can’t, She is becomes she’s, will not becomes won’t.

In Math this week we revised number patterns. We could see that our students could identify an easily recognisable counting pattern, like: 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 etc, but found it challenging to find the pattern for sequences such as 0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25 etc. Students must remember to ask themselves the questions “What can I see?”, “What is happening to the first number to get the second number” and they have to think about the operation that might be used. For example, it could be +, -, x or divide. In this pattern, students worked out that we were adding odd numbers each time, for example: +1, +3, +5, +7, +9 etc and that this counting sequence was made up of square numbers. We have a class full of mathematicians!

We have had a great week and are all looking forward to lots of hard work and learning as the weeks roll on.

Have a wonderfully amazing, awesome week!

*From Miss Priddle & the incredible learners in 3-6.*

*Photo shows the Year 3-6 Class learning about Number Patterns today.*
From Miss Priddle...

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

It is great to be back at school and back in the classroom! 😊
I have been in and out over the last 3 weeks attending training that will help us in continuing to build the capacity of the school. I was away earlier in the week attending Peer Reviewer Training in Mackay which helps Principals stay across best practice, and dig deeper on what teaching and learning in the classroom helps students in their core business at school; Learning! I am looking forward to sharing what I have learned with our staff and school community.

Our staff will also be attending other Professional Development Days this term across the areas of phonics, grammar and iPads in the classroom. We look to build the capacity of our staff in every way possible and PD is just one of the many ways that we do this. I am grateful to be able to work with an incredible team who love what they do.

Thank-you
Thank you to all of our parent, staff, student and community helpers who organised and volunteered at the Cutting this week. It is a very big event for our P&C and many people volunteered long hours both in the canteen and organising behind the scenes to make it happen. We are so lucky that we have an incredibly supportive P&C that value learning and education and are committed to providing our students with the very best.

School Opinion Survey
Today is the final day to access the School Opinion Survey. The survey closes today (Friday 29th July). You can find out more information by visiting the link below or contacting the school office.

Same Day Student Absence Notification
To ensure the safety and well-being of our students a Same Day Student Absence Notification process is now in place at Comet SS. If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the school as soon as possible, or leave a message on our answering service. If we do not hear from you, we will contact you before 9.30am to enquire why your child is absent from school. Please contact the school office if you would like further information.

In each fortnight’s newsletter, I would like to share with you something that we think is worth celebrating at Comet SS. This week we will start with celebrating the fantastic efforts of our students who attended the CH Athletics Trials in Emerald this week; Amelia, Amy, Cora and Dekoda. All girls participated very well and tried their best in their events. So far, Cora has placed 1st in Long jump but we will update you next week on the other results. Congratulations girls!

Have a great weekend 😊
Yours in Learning,
Kate Priddle

We're Celebrating!

Photo shows Amelia before she headed off for Day 2 of the CH Trials. Good Luck Amelia, Cora, Amy and Dekoda!

The Teaching of Reading Newsletter Series

This week we have started a series about how children learn to read. Parents are the first teachers and we know what an important role school and parent partnerships play in ensuring the success of our students. This week we are exploring the many ways that children learn literacy skills from birth. The information this week comes from the Raising Children Network. Please see the newsletter attachment for more information or visit the link below:
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/developing_literacy.html

Comet Kids are Readers, Writers and Mathematicians.

TERM 3 - WEEK 3

29TH JULY 2016