

# Reading at home

Supporting  
your child's  
learning at  
**Year 2**

## Make reading fun

**Reading at home needs to be fun and easy. It should be something you both look forward to, a time for laughter and talk.**

- Find a comfortable, quiet place for the two of you to cosy up and read for 10-15 minutes.
- If you or your child start to feel stressed, take a break and read the rest of the story aloud yourself – keep it fun.
- Make some puppets (from old socks or cardboard tubes or use cut-outs on sticks etc.) that you and your child can use to act out the story you have read. Or dress up and make it into a play.
- Play card games (you can make the cards yourself).
- Read songs, waiata, poems and rhymes and sing them together, too.

## Talk about reading

- Sometimes you can be the listener, sometimes the reader and sometimes you can take turns. They might like to read to their pet, a toy, or other whānau members.
- Keep reading to them no matter how old they are – they can understand more challenging books than they can read themselves.
- Encourage your child to read or identify known words in all sorts of things, for example, online menus for streaming platforms, street signs, and food labels. Simple recipes are great, and they might get to eat what they've read about, too!
- Talk about the story, other stories you have read and experiences you have both had that are like those in the story. When reading picture books together, talk about how the pictures are helping to tell the story.



**Here's a tip:** talk with your child all the time and give them time to talk with you. You can use your first language.



**Here's a tip:** when they are reading, your child will still be coming across words they don't know. When this happens, you could remind them to think about what they already know to do when they get stuck. Break the word up into individual sounds and then blend the word together e.g. m-i-d-n-igh-t then blended to midnight. If they don't know what the word means talk to them about the meaning.

## Take your child to the library

- Help them choose books.
- Find other books by the same author or on the same topic. Look for information online – you might have to be the reader for this one.



**Here's a tip:** help your child to link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.

# Writing at home

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## Make writing fun

- Encourage your child to write. It is okay for you to help and share the writing. Praise the effort they are putting into their writing.
- Once they have finished writing, encourage them to go back and check what they have written.
- Paper or digital scrapbooks and photobooks are fun, too. Get your child to write captions or stories for photos or pictures found online about a favourite subject, such as dogs, motorbikes, or the latest toy craze.
- Play with words. Finding and discussing interesting new words can help increase the words your child uses when they write. Look up words in an online dictionary or talk to family and whānau to find out more about the meaning and the whakapapa (origins) of the words.



**Here's a tip:** talk a lot to your child while you are doing things together. Use the language that works best for you and your child.

## Talk about their writing

- Make up a different ending for a favourite story together and get them to write it down.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw. Get them to tell you the story.
- Keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.

## Give them reasons to write

- Write lists: 'Things I need from the shop', 'Games that I enjoy', 'Things I want to do in the holidays'. The last one can be cut up and go into a box or bag for a lucky dip when the holidays finally arrive.
- Write out recipes or instructions for other people to follow (especially fun if the instructions are for an adult).
- Keep a diary, especially if you are doing something different and exciting. Your child can draw the pictures or find photos for the diary. Their diary could be done online too.
- Write letters, cards, and messages to friends, family and whānau (you might write replies sometimes, too).
- Write secret messages for others to find in their lunch box or under their pillow.



**Here's a tip:** display their work. Put it on the fridge. Be proud of it. Share it with others.



**Here's a tip:** it is important that they have fun when writing at home and that they keep trying. If they get letters or words backwards or misspelt, praise them for trying and encourage them to have another look at it. If letters are backwards, you can write the correct letter somewhere for them to copy.



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