

Reading at home

Supporting
your child's
learning at
Year 3

Make reading fun

- Have fun singing along to songs or YouTube videos together.
- Read to your child every day. You can use your first language.
- Have a variety of reading materials available. For example, library books (non-fiction and fiction), online recipes, simple timetables, brochures, magazines, and any other reading that supports your child's current interest.
- Encourage your child to retell favourite stories or parts of stories in their own words.
- Play card games (you can make the cards yourself) and video games together.



Here's a tip: when they are reading, your child will be working at solving unfamiliar words by themselves. If they need help you could ask them to look at groups of letters they know make a sound or sounds to break the word up and then blend it together. If you or your child starts to feel stressed by what they're reading, take a break and read the rest of the story aloud yourself. Keep it fun.

Make it real

- Reading makes more sense if your child can relate it to their own life. Help them to make connections between what they are reading and their own lives and experiences. For example, "That's a funny story about a grandad. What does your grandad do that makes you laugh?", "We saw a big mountain in that book, what is our mountain called, and where did the name come from?"
- Look for opportunities for your child to read wherever you are, for example, signs, advertising billboards, junk mail, recipes and online content.
- Show your child that reading is fun and important to you by letting them see you reading.

Find out together

- Visit the library often and help your child to choose books that interest them.
- Talk with older people or kaumātua in your family about interesting stories and people from your child's past that you could find out more about together.
- Ask your child questions (and support them to find the answers) to widen their reading experiences. For example, "What is the next instruction in this recipe?", "What time is the next bus to town?"
- Help your child with any words that they don't understand. Look them up together in an online dictionary if you need to.

Writing at home

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Writing for fun

- Talk about interesting words with your child, especially ones that are fun to say, like “hippopotamus” or “ringaringa”. Short and simple games could involve finding how many words can be made using the letters in the word ‘elephant’.
- Play word games together online or in local newspapers.
- Make up a story or think of a pakiwaitara (cultural narrative) or traditional tale and act it out with costumes and music, write down the names of the characters or tīpuna (ancestors)
- Make up a play with your child. You could help your child to write the play down. Use puppets they design and give a performance to the family.



Here's a tip: keep writing fun and use any excuse to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.

Writing for a reason

- Writing for a real purpose can help your child want to write. For example, messaging an invitation to whānau, or writing thank you notes.
- Personalising cards by cutting, decorating, sticking, or stamping are great skills for coordinating fingers and being creative. You can create digital cards with your child too, by helping them find GIFs, filters, and other fun effects.
- Encourage your child to write what they need to pack for a holiday, dictate your shopping list to them, or get them to write a list of jobs that need doing.



Here's a tip: talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand what your child's picture or story is about, ask them to explain.

Support your child's writing

- Talk to your child about what you are writing. Let them see you making lists, typing messages, filling in forms.
- When you need to complete a form, ask for or print an extra form so that your child can do their own 'grown up' writing.
- Display your child's writing where others can admire and read it.
- Play with words. Find and discuss interesting new words (this can help increase the words your child uses when they write). Look words up in an online dictionary or online or talk to family and whānau members to learn the whakapapa (origins) of the words.



Here's a tip: be a great role model. Show your child that you write for all sorts of reasons. Let them see you enjoying writing. You can use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.



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