

Reading and writing

Talking about texts

Written language

Children build early reading and writing skills when they have regular opportunities to talk about and share texts with the support of an adult.

Children engage with many types of texts in their everyday life including:

- print texts — signs, labels, books and emails
- multimedia texts — music, film, animations, web texts and television shows
- visual texts — maps, symbols, pictures, photographs and artworks.

Children learn about how texts work when adults talk about texts as they read and write.

Book knowledge

Help your child learn about how books work.

Talk with your child about the parts of books:

- cover, title, title page, spine, the author and illustrator
- the pages and how to turn them carefully, one at a time, from the corner
- how you read the words — from left to right and top to bottom on the page.

Predicting (before reading)

Help your child learn to predict (make a sensible guess about) what the text will be about by using information on the cover and/or by flicking through the text.

Ask questions, such as:

- *What do you think the book is about?*
- *What do you think will happen to the boy?*
- *Why do you think this will happen? (e.g. There is a picture that shows ...)*

Purpose

Help your child to understand there are many types of books and texts such as recipes, menus, maps, information books, picture books and web pages.

Help your child to talk about the purpose of different texts including:

- to share information
- to tell you how to do something
- to tell a story.

Talk about how the words and pictures are organised and the types of words and pictures likely to be in this type of text (e.g. ingredients or ‘Once upon a time’).

Joining in (while reading)

Help your child to use their memory of familiar books and patterns in the text to join in as you read.

Talk about the rhyme or repetition in the text:

- *Remember the words on each page start out the same.*
- *The last word changes and matches the picture/ rhymes.*
- *This character always says the same words – You can say them with me.*



Comprehension (during and after reading)

Help your child to make sense of the text's meaning. Talk with them about the ideas shared in the words and pictures.

Ask questions such as:

- *What just happened?*
- *Why did it happen?*
- *What happened first/next/at the beginning/end?*
- *Why did the character do/think that? Have you ever seen/done something similar?*

Responding

Help your child to respond to the text's meaning by sharing feelings, making comments or acting on the ideas:

- *What did you think about the book? Why?*
- *Would you read the book again? Why?*

Draw a picture to show your favourite part or character:

- *What could you do to show you know how to look after your dog like the girl in the book?*
- *What sort of map could you make?*

If you speak a language other than English, you could sometimes share and talk about texts using your home language.

Talking about texts helps your child to:

- view themselves as capable of learning to read and write in the future
- develop a desire to read and write
- explore new vocabulary (words) and ideas, and understand their world.



For further information, visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy

Disclaimer: the information in this resource sheet is offered as a guide only, and should not be treated as an exhaustive statement on the subject.