

their learning at school.

This brief guide will provide you with:

- ‡ +HOSIXO WLSV WR EXLOG \RXU literacy skills at home;
- ‡ An explanation of how teachers will support \RXU FKLOG V HDUO\ OLWHUDF
- ‡ Steps you can take if you think your child needs extra support.

Ideas to try at home:

- ‡ Talk to your child right from birth, have conversations and ask them questions.
- ‡ Read to your child bedtime stories count!
- ‡ Have books and audiobooks in your home the public library is a great resource for free books and audiobooks.

[Families, Play Today](#), and [When I Go to Kindergarten](#) guides.

- ‡ Have letter and number toys and games at home puzzles, magnets, and board games are fun ways to expose kids to letters, words, and numbers.
- ‡ Play with rhymes rhyming books and games help kids learn the sounds of language.
- ‡ Sing together songs are a fun way to learn language.
- ‡ Have your child draw, craft, or play with playdough before your child can form letters, their hands need to be strong and these activities can help!
- ‡ Point out words in their environment on signs, packages, clothing, or toys.
- ‡ Label items at home the more words kids see, the stronger their vocabulary becomes.
- ‡ Share new words L W V Q R W LMX V W E I also huge, giant, or massive!
- ‡ Attend a class Find a [StrongStart](#) near you or check out your local community center or [public library](#) for free early learning activities.

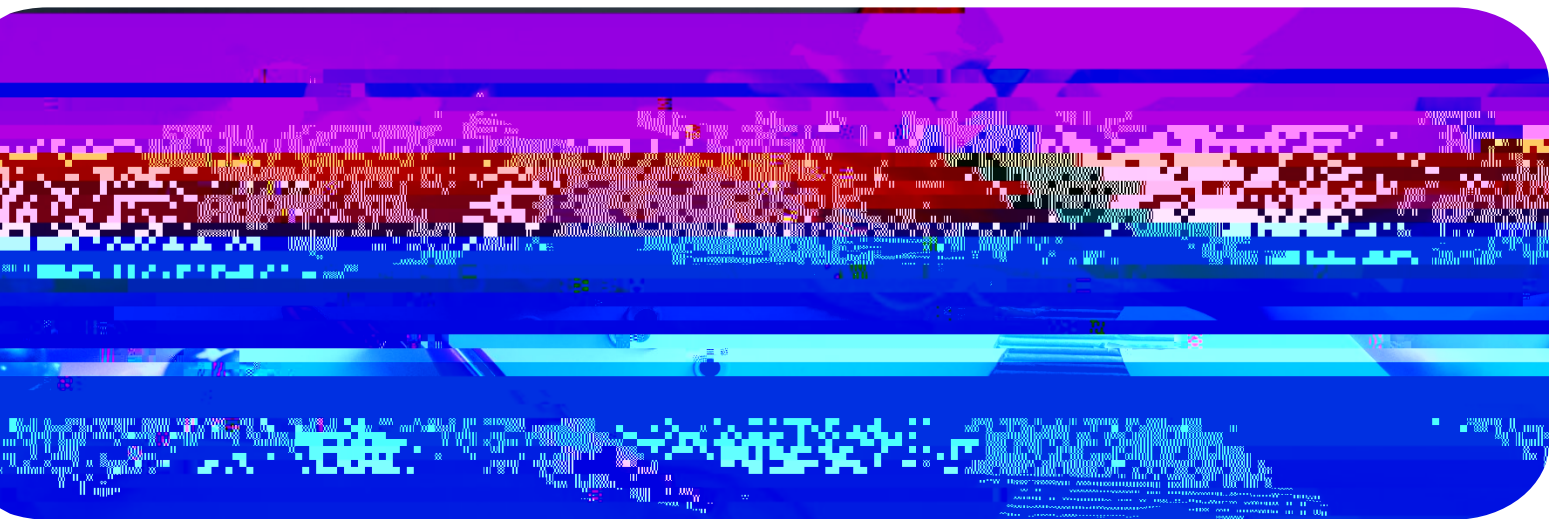


How can I help my child develop early literacy skills at home?

Talking and storytelling are where literacy skills begin. Ask your child questions and share stories with them, including personal stories and stories in your preferred language. Reading with your child every day is also one of the best ways to help them build their early literacy skills. Remember, all reading is valuable whether it's reading a recipe while you cook together or reading the newspaper. When your child is ready to read on their own, choose books that interest them as well as some early reader books that they can start to try to read with your help. Teachers may send home books for this purpose. Make sure to ask your child questions about the story, invite them to make guesses about what might happen next, and discuss any new words they come across.

Encourage your child to draw and write regularly. This can include making lists, writing letters, or keeping a journal. Where possible, provide them with fun writing materials like colorful pens, paper, and notebooks. Provide time for your child to express their ideas freely through drawing and writing. Making marks and shapes on paper is the start of writing. Later you can help them practice forming letters correctly.

Community resources like libraries and community centers can work with you to support your child at home and in school or care.



Information for Parents and Caregivers



How can I build my literacy skills if English isn't my

As a parent or caregiver, there are many free ways to improve your literacy skills.

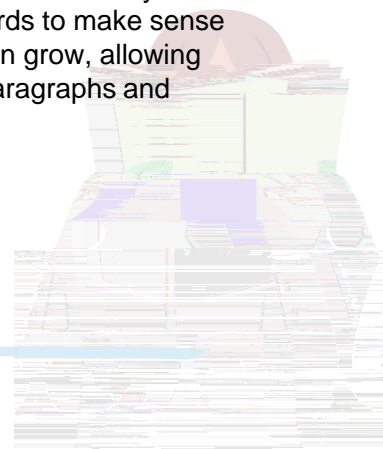
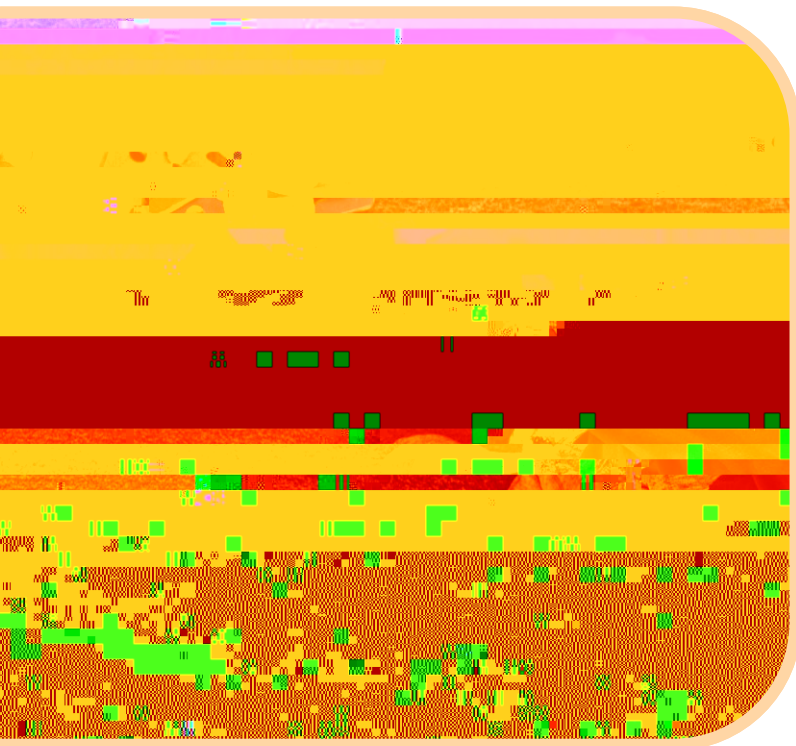
School districts offer adult education courses for free for adult students. Many [public colleges and universities](#) also offer free adult education and English Language Learning programs. Contact your local college, university, or [school district](#) to learn more about eligibility, available courses, and start dates.

The Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) offers free adult, family, and Indigenous literacy classes and programs across British Columbia. The adult classes are designed for you, while the family literacy classes improve the reading and writing skills of the whole family. These programs can help you support your child's literacy skills. [Contact the program](#) closest to you for more information.

What early literacy skills might I notice my child developing?

From infants to primary school students, you may start to notice some wonderful early literacy skills developing in your child. Here are a few you might notice:

- ‡ Interest in Books: Your child may begin grabbing books and bringing them to you, showing an interest in reading together. They might even start to tell their own stories based on the pictures, demonstrating their understanding of how stories work.
- ‡ Vocabulary : As they learn to speak more, their vocabulary will grow. The more words they know, the better they will be able to understand new words they will read later.
- ‡ Storytelling: As their imagination grows, your child may enjoy telling their own stories, which is a great foundation for writing, later on.
- ‡ Letter and Number Recognition: You may notice your child pointing out letters and numbers in their environment, such as on signs, packages, and toys.
- ‡ Letter Sounds : Your child may become curious about letters and the sounds they make. They may start recognizing that different letters make different sounds, which is an important skill for reading.
- ‡ Written Words : Your child may start to recognize parts of words, helping them sound out new words. They might also begin to recognize whole words they see frequently, building their confidence.
- ‡ Sentences : Over time, your child may use their understanding of words to make sense of sentences. This skill can grow, allowing them to understand full paragraphs and eventually entire books.



Information for Parents and Caregivers



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may reach out to you if they notice a concern at
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if you notice any concerns at home. Together,
you can develop a plan to support your child.
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step of the way.

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their class, including your child. They will use
this information to identify any areas your child
may need extra support with. They may try new
strategies in the classroom to help build your
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If the classroom teacher feels they need more
information, they may talk to you and then ask
the inclusive education teacher for help. The
inclusive education teacher may also assess
your child and may suggest strategies for use in
the classroom or decide to work with your child
one-on-one or in a small group to support their
learning.

