

## 5. Talking and listening tips for children Kindergarten to Year 4:

- ✓ Try to avoid interrupting children and listen to the whole of what they are trying to communicate.
- ✓ Try providing opportunities to talk with and listen to children as they talk and share.
- ✓ Give positive messages that show you are interested by giving nods, smiles, sounds, words, gestures, but try not to intrude while your child is speaking.
- ✓ If your child has trouble remembering what was spoken, a good technique is for him or her to repeat in the mind what has been said, rephrasing it in his or her own words. If it is appropriate, taking notes is very helpful.
- ✓ If you are planning something, such as a meal or an outing, try having a brainstorming session with your child. You can do this by asking for ideas for the occasion. You could just listen to one another share ideas or write them down.
- ✓ Discuss common dates on the calendar such as public holidays and have your child mark in important events on a family calendar.
- ✓ Talk about days, months and years in relation to events such as birthdays and other special occasions.
- ✓ Talk about street names and the meaning of signs as you drive around. You could retell or make up stories about the street names that tell how the name came about.

### Contacts:

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# Five ways to build your child's literacy skills K-4



## 1. Sharing a book at home

Together with your child, you can enjoy sharing reading.

Children love to hear a story read aloud.

- Try reading with different voices, lots of emotion, invented sound effects and funny faces. Change the tone in your voice, vary the loudness or softness of your voice. Have fun and enjoy it.
- It is a good idea to practise reading before sharing a book.
- Listen to your child talk about the story and the pictures.
- Try asking your child which parts of the books he or she found exciting, funny or different.
- Give your child the chance to choose a book to read.
- Try reading to your child and, at other times, ask your child to join in reading the book.
- Let your child hear how *hill* and *home* start with the same sound or how *trouble* and *bubble* rhyme.

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## 3. Joining the Premier's Reading Challenge

Did you know?

- You can encourage your child to enter in the Premier's Reading Challenge to develop his or her love of reading. In their spare time, children can enjoy books as well as computers and computer games!
- There is a great website for information about the PRC at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premiersreadingchallenge>
- To qualify for the PRC, in the one year from September to September, children must read a certain number of books from the specially selected book lists. They can also choose books that they would like to read.
- There are hundreds of titles on the PRC booklist that include humour, fantasy, mysteries, poetry, sport and factual books.
- The children receive a certificate signed by the Premier and, after four years of participating, they are awarded a gold certificate.

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## 2. Researching the Internet

Did you know?

- Using the Internet requires skills and knowledge that are different from those found in books and other printed materials. These skills include such things as links, images, icons and searching.
- The Internet is a wonderful resource for knowledge gathering, information using to support your child's literacy development.
- If you are searching for a suitable book to read, try entering a publisher or an author's name into a reliable search engine, such as *Google*. Some reliable publishers are Scholastic, Penguin, Allen & Unwin and Pan Macmillan. These publishers have their own databases that will allow you to preview recent releases, read sample extracts, covers and read brief overviews.
- You can search for short-listed books on the Children's Book Council of Australia at: <http://www.cbc.org.au>
- You can find other publishers at: <http://www.publishers.asn.au>  
A good source for book reviews is: <http://www.cool-reads.co.uk>

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## 4. Doing literacy homework

Do you ever hear at home: 'I have a project to do!'

Encourage your child to talk with you about the project. Ask:

- What is your project about? When is it due?
- Where do you think you'll start? Would you like any help or are you okay?

Let's plan your project:

- Where will you go to find out the information?
- Perhaps try Internet research and visit the local library.
- Where else might you go or what else might you do to get the information? How will you present/publish the information? You could write a story, oral presentation, PowerPoint, presentation poster or a brochure.

Hints:

- Don't copy information word for word from books or the Internet. Write your ideas clearly in your own words.
- Have you used *Spellchecker* and *grammar check*?
- Did you use [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) to check any words for spelling?

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