

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.



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education


Te Poutāhū
Curriculum Centre

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Maths at home

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Talk together and have fun with numbers, shapes, games, and patterns

Help your child to:

- find and connect numbers around your home and neighbourhood – phone numbers, clocks, car number plates, road signs, signs showing distance
- name the number that is 10 more or 10 less than before or after a number up to 1000
- make patterns forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s and 100s starting with different numbers (for example 13, 23, 33, 43..., ...43, 33, 23, 13)
- make different types of patterns by drumming, clapping, stamping, dancing or drawing patterns that repeat and describe this pattern for someone else to follow
- find out the birth dates of family or whānau members – Ask questions like ‘who is born earliest in the year?’, ‘who is born in the winter?’, or ‘who has an odd numbered birthday?’
- group objects in a collection in groups of 10 and find out how many in all, e.g. coins, shells
- do addition and subtraction problems using two- and three-digit numbers, for example, $231 + 245$, $154 - 23$
- use groups of 10 that add to 1000
eg $500 + 500$, $300 + 700$
- use and talk about simple fractions (halves to eighths) of groups or shapes, i.e. cutting up a cake into eight pieces for an eighth, or folding napkins into quarters
- read the numbers on car number plates
e.g. 347 as three hundred and forty seven.



Here's a tip: be positive about maths and show your child where you use maths. This will help them build confidence in maths. Praise their effort.



Use easy, everyday activities

Involve your child in:

- telling the time using words like half past, quarter past and quarter to
- learning their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables
- reading and sharing a book. Ask them questions about numbers in the story and use the number of pages as a way to practise number facts, too
- doing a shape and number search when you are reading a book or looking at art (such as carvings and sculpture)
- using a calendar to work out how many days until an important event
- using kitchen scales to weigh ingredients for cooking or baking.



Here's a tip: maths is an important part of everyday life. Make maths fun for your child with practical, hands-on activities and games that you can do together.

For wet afternoons/school holidays/weekends

Get together with your child and:

- play games, for example, board games, games with dice, card games, jigsaw puzzles
- make your own advertising pamphlet. Cut out and sort images to go on it, make pretend money to spend
- make a play shop and take turns 'buying' things, and giving change for simple amounts of money
- grow seeds or sprouts and measure the growth each week
- create a repeating pattern
- go on a treasure hunt. Make a map with clues and see who can get to the treasure first
- dance to music and sing/clap to favourite songs, make up a dance sequence each – can you copy each other?
- both take turns closing your eyes and describing how to get from the front gate to the kitchen, from the kitchen to their bedroom, from home to school
- do timed activities. You hold the watch, and they count how many times they can bounce a ball in a minute
- play guess-and-check games using different shaped jars. How many beans, buttons, pegs in the container?
- help your child weigh or measure ingredients as you cook together.



Here's a tip: the way your child is learning to solve maths problems may be different to when you were at school. Get them to show you how they do it and support them in their learning.

