

# Reading at home

Supporting  
your child's  
learning at  
**Year 5**

## Talk about their reading

- Ask your child what they are reading and talk about their ideas: When reading novels without pictures, what do they imagine the characters look like? Are there people like that in your family or whānau? What do they want to find out from the book? What are the important messages, and how do they know that?
- Talk about books on similar topics. This helps your child to pull together ideas from different places.
- Talk about different types of stories that are read or spoken. Articles or stories online, whakataukī (proverbs), comics, stories, songs, waiata, non-fiction books or novels will each have different points you can talk about together.
- Help your child to share their thinking. Get them to share opinions and talk about why they think that. Listen, even when you don't agree with their ideas.



**Here's a tip:** give your child space and time to read. Reading longer books they have chosen needs plenty of time and encouragement.

## Be a reader yourself

- Talk about what you are reading and why you are enjoying it or what is challenging about it. Read a book to your child that they might find difficult but want to read and talk about it as you read. Use your first language whenever you can – it can help your child's learning.
- Read the same book, magazine, or online content as your child. You can then share your ideas about what you have read. You could talk about why the authors made the choices they did in their writing.



**Here's a tip:** keep the magic of listening to a good story alive by reading either made up, retold or read-aloud stories to your child – with lots of excitement through the use of your voice.



## Read together

- Find out information together from different places. For example, online dictionaries, magazines, family trees, whakapapa
- Play games that involve reading in a fun way.
- Encourage your child to read to others. Younger brothers and sisters, whānau or grandparents are great audiences for practising smooth and interesting reading out loud.
- Visit the library regularly. Help your child choose books they're interested in (about hobbies, interests or who they are and where they come from) or encourage them to get books out that are about what they are studying at school. They may need you to help by reading to them, as well.
- Find books of movies or TV programmes. It can help your child to learn different ways to tell the same story if they read the 'stories' they have watched.



**Here's a tip:** help your child to link stories to their own life. Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story.

# Writing at home

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## Make writing fun

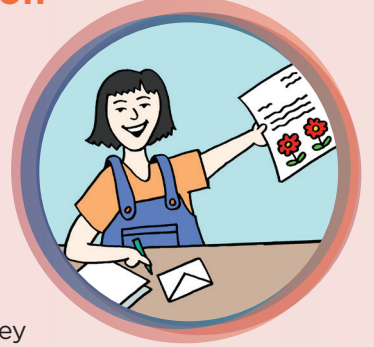
- Help your child write about their heroes, sports events, tīpuna (ancestors), hobbies and interests. This helps them stay interested in what they are writing about.
- Play word games and do puzzles together to help your child learn more about words and spelling.
- Have interesting paper and pens available to help them make a special book to write in or create a digital book together of special events.
- Write to your child, or share jokes, cartoons, or short articles they might like to read.
- Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write – look words up in an online dictionary or talk to family and whānau members to learn more about the background and 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 enjoy writing. You can use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.

## Write for a reason

- Encourage your child to write messages, invitations, thank you letters, poems, stories or postcards to friends, family and whānau – make it fun.
- Ask your child who they would like to write to. It is helpful if what they write is given or sent to others.
- Ask them to write a story to read to a whānau member.
- A diary or journal – on paper or online – can help your child to write about their experiences and their own feelings about things that have happened at school, at home, in the world, on the marae, at sports events and on TV.



**Here's a tip:** talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand something they are writing about, ask them to explain.

## Talk about your child's writing

- Talk about ideas and information they are going to write about. Talk about experiences, diagrams, graphs, pictures, photos and material that your child is planning to use for school. Discussing the information and main ideas can help their planning for writing and their understanding, too.
- Share enjoyment of their writing. Read and talk about the writing that your child does. Give praise for things they have put effort into to support their learning.
- Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write.
- Share your own writing with your child – lists, planning for family events or an email. You can help them to see that you too use writing for different purposes.



**Here's a tip:** keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, anytime.



**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:

- count forwards and backwards starting with numbers like these fractions:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $1$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  then back again
- talk about large numbers in your environment, for example, gaming scores and distances
- find families of facts when multiplying and dividing with 6, 8 and 9, for example, if your child knows  $6 \times 8 = 48$ , then they will also know that  $8 \times 6 = 48$ ,  $48 \div 6 = 8$  and  $48 \div 8 = 6$
- estimate the cost of a weekly shop to the nearest dollar
- read car number plates and look at the car's odometer to see how far you've gone
- talk about graphs and tables that are in your local newspapers or online
- use an app or a map to find North, and discuss the compass points, and familiar locations at each point
- notice angles around them that are smaller than, equal to or larger than a right angle.



**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:

- making dinner at home, at camp or on a marae – look at how many and how much is needed for the people eating (potatoes, bok choy, carrots, sausages). Talk about fractions (half, quarter, fourth) to calculate how much to cook and cooking times
- helping at the supermarket – choose items to weigh. Look for the best buy between different brands of the same items (breakfast cereal, spreads like jam or honey)
- practising times tables – check with your child or their teacher which times tables you could help your child with
- working out how much change you'd get from \$10 when buying items with cash
- finding out how long an event is when the start and finish times are known, or working out 'how long until..', such as how many minutes until the movie/until we have to leave the park.



**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 card and board games that use guessing and checking
- do complicated jigsaw puzzles
- do paper folding (origami) by following written instructions or a video
- look through junk mail or online shops – find the most expensive and cheapest item advertised
- use junk mail or other strips of paper to make a woven mat
- make a roster for jobs around the house
- plan for a special event on a budget; for example, afternoon tea for a grandparent, teacher or family friend
- play outside games – cricket, basketball, mini-golf and soccer
- follow a simple recipe for scones or pikelets
- use blocks that fit together to make a model. Draw what it looks like from each side and above. Then draw what they think it looks like from underneath. Once finished, check the underneath of the real object against the drawing
- make water balloons and measure (with footsteps or a tape measure) how far you could throw them (outside!) and how far the water splatters
- collect and put in order the birthdays of family and whānau – make a reminder calendar for the year.



**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.

