

Supporting literacy at home in Pōhutukawa

The Better Start Literacy Approach aims to enhance the early reading, writing and oral language skills of all children. It is based on research and has been successfully trialled in New Zealand schools. The Ministry of Education is supporting this approach for implementation in junior school classes throughout the country.



You are an important part of your child's reading and spelling journey. The following pointers will help you to support your child at home as they develop their literacy knowledge and skills. It is important that reading at home is fun and interesting!

Any reading that you do with your child in another language you are fluent in, will help and support your child's literacy journey.

Green Reading Folders

Each night your child will bring home their green reading folder with either a book you can read and share together, or a phonics game or word/s to learn.

Please

- help your child get into a routine of showing you their green reading folder each afternoon.
- take the time to discuss and enjoy the task inside together.
- encourage your child to pack their reading folder back into their bags each night ready for the next day.

Reading at Home

A variety of activities will be brought home for your child to share with you

- A guided book your child has read with the teacher
 - A Ready to Read (Phonics Plus) book designed to support BSLA.
 - Another guided reader (previously read with the teacher)
 - A favourite book your child has selected from their book box.
If your child has selected a favourite book from their book box and is unable to read it independently then please praise them for the parts they know e.g. I can discuss the pictures and share my knowledge about the bugs in the story. Then together read the story and enjoy having quality reading time each night.
- Phonics game.
- Word/s to learn.
- Library books - each week your child will bring home 2 library books to share.
We encourage the children to have a separate library bag for these books to ensure the library books are protected while travelling between home and school.
- Poetry book - each week your child will bring their poetry book to share with you.

How you can support your child in their reading journey

- Praise your child for their reading and writing attempts. It's not easy to learn to read and write a language, so use plenty of encouragement and praise to help motivate your child to keep trying.
- Reading is not just about the books that come home from school. Written words are everywhere - on street signs, on the road, on packets, in magazines and even on your phone! Bring your child's attention to print and help them read words wherever you see them!

Thank you in advance for your support with literacy at home. We know how busy life can be for families so we understand if the task/s cannot be completed every night - just do your best!

Kind regards

The Pōhutukawa Teaching Team.