

# Reading at home

Supporting  
your child's  
learning at  
**Year 8**

## Support their reading

- Help your child to find suitable material to read online for a topic of interest at school.
- Talk to your child about what they have been reading online. What have they learnt? What questions do they still have? How do they know the information is reliable?
- Talk to your child's teacher about available books and resources that relate to your child's interests.
- Read through your child's homework tasks and questions together and talk about what they are planning to do to finish the homework.
- Play video games and board games as a family. Increase the challenge – it really helps children's learning.



**Here's a tip:** be a great role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading, including reading in your first language.

## Read together

- Read your child a children's novel that they are interested in – try one or two chapters each day.
- Get your child to listen to younger siblings doing their reading homework (this is a good chance for them to practise some of their own reading skills).
- You can remind them about pausing while the younger child thinks about a word they don't know, giving them help to sound out the word, checking it makes sense, and giving them praise for their reading.
- Have books, magazines, comics, online articles and other information available for everyone in your family to read on topics that interest your child, for example, skateboarding, surfing, fashion.
- Listen together to audiobooks of your child's favourite stories, books and songs.



**Here's a tip:** be positive whenever your child is reading, no matter what they are reading. Respect your child's opinion as it shows they are thinking about what they read.

## Hunt out things to read

- Take a trip to the library and help your child to find books, audiobooks and magazines that they will enjoy reading – for example, books about their favourite musician, movie star, sports celebrity or other role model.
- Find books, magazines, websites or videos that tell stories about who your child is and where they have come from.
- Read and talk about advertising signs you see – talk about how the company decided on the words and the design, and who they are trying to appeal to with the advertising.
- Use a map to find directions for a trip you are going on, or follow the journeys of people on travel and adventure programmes.
- Get some instruction books from the library on how to plan for and make food, gifts, or toys, for family birthdays, Matariki or other culturally significant events. Work through the instructions with your child.
- Find some recipes together that your child might like to cook for a family treat. Be there to help your child as they read through the recipe, get all the ingredients and create the final result.

# Writing at home

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## Write for a reason

### Help your child to:

- write a letter or an email to their teacher or principal, local council or their favourite influencer, sharing your child's opinion on a topic of interest
- start a blog and get your child to record thoughts about their day to share with their friends and family
- write a proverb, family motto or pepeha and illustrate it with online images or photos
- develop a spreadsheet to record the progress of your child's sports team or kapa haka group (or one they follow), including games played, performances given, penalties, scores, player/performer of the day
- start a writing journal to record trips and weekend activities
- take some photos and write a picture book for a younger child using the photos
- write a comic using drawings, or pictures to present an idea or story
- make some birthday cards, thank you notes or letters to friends and family.



**Here's a tip:** be a great role model. Show your child that you write for lots of reasons, for example, replying to an email, writing a shopping list, invitation or letter, writing a story about your early life for your child to read.

## Talk about your child's writing

- Ask them about a piece of writing they are doing at school and/or for their homework.
- Tell them about some writing you are currently doing – a letter, a poem, a list for the holidays, a scrapbook, something you are doing for work or study.
- Help them to use an online dictionaries and thesaurus.



## Make writing fun

### Get together with your child to:

- play strategy games and do word puzzles like word search puzzles and crosswords – you can find these online
- make the weekly shopping list using supermarket flyers or supermarket website and find all the bargains and savings to fit the budget
- write some descriptions for items you may wish to sell online
- find out about some of your family history (whakapapa) and/or family stories (pakiwaitara) and record these stories to share with other family/whānau members.



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



**Here's a tip:** talk about what your child writes. Be interested. Use it as a way of starting conversations. Listen to your child's opinion, even if you don't agree with it.