

# Literacy For Families

**You Are Your Child's First Teacher.** Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



**K**

**Kindergarten**

In kindergarten, your child continues to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in a supportive and engaging learning environment. Kindergartners build skills that help them talk and share ideas. They begin to write simple words and sentences by experimenting with how letters represent sounds and may use invented spelling and mix uppercase and lowercase letters as they learn.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn about literacy this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

## What Kindergartners Learn and Do



Create and share ideas by drawing, telling stories, and writing.



Explore words and match sounds to letters.



Listen to and talk about stories, poems, and texts about their world.



Recognize that people can share ideas in different ways, such as books, videos, or ads.



Join conversations and share their thoughts with others.



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



# How to Support Your Kindergartner with Literacy

## Promote Literacy at Home

- Draw a picture of a scene from a story. Talk about the drawing with your student and help them write some words about it.
- Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters with your student to help them learn sounds.
- Point out rhymes and ask your student to share other rhyming words.
- Point out the connection between letters and sounds.
- Use daily routines to encourage reading and writing. Have your student notice letters in a grocery list, identify sounds or letters on a walk, or point out new words in recipes.
- Read favorite books again and again. Take time to pause and ask what is happening in the story.

## Talk with Your Student

- Talk about your student's favorite stories. Ask them where they heard the story and why they like it.
- Share stories about your family or community and explain why they matter.
- Ask your student to tell you about their day. Ask follow-up questions to encourage them to share details or more ideas.
- Connect books with real-life experiences. For example, a book about birds could connect to a trip to the park or a walk around the neighborhood.

## Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in reading and writing and what you can practice at home.
- Ask the teacher what students should know and be able to do in reading and writing by the end of kindergarten.
- Tell the teacher what you notice about your student's strengths and challenges in reading and writing. Ask what they need to practice or what they can work on next.
- Talk to the teacher if you have concerns about your student's progress in reading and writing. Ask what kinds of support or resources the school offers.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

