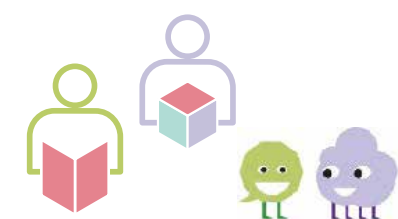


Family literacy is about the way families use and develop literacy and numeracy skills together in the home. For example, reading a book at bedtime, singing, playing word games, writing a birthday card, using a calendar, baking, talking about your day.



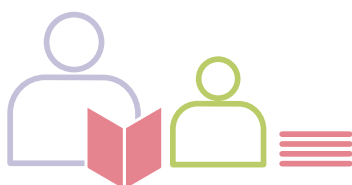
Why is this important?

Research shows that taking part in family learning is good for:



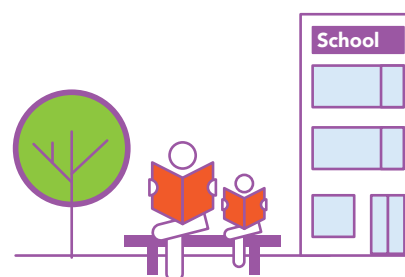
Children

- Become better readers.
- Enjoy school more.
- Develop better cognitive ability and greater problem-solving skills.
- Have fewer behavioural issues.



Families and parents

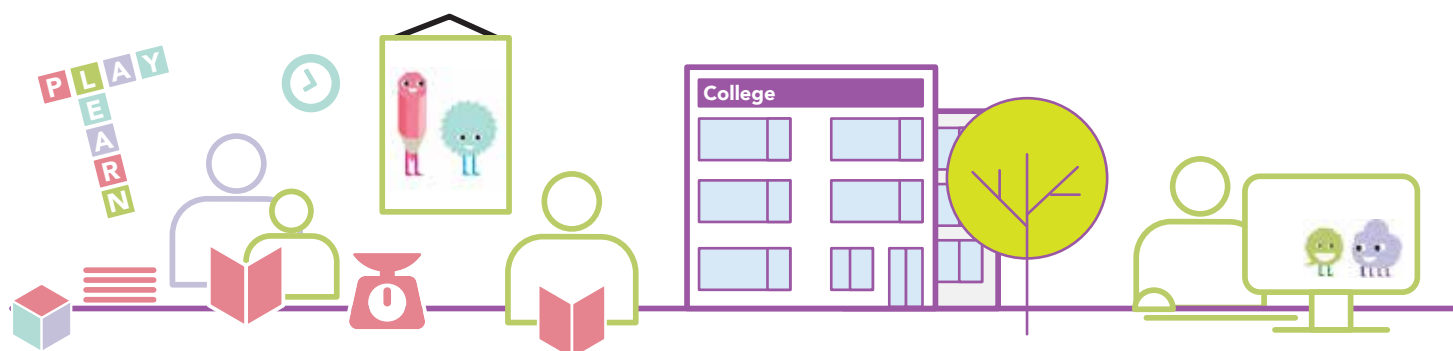
- Helps families with their children's homework and other related school work.
- Provides parents with support, information and help with their own learning.
- Overcomes the barriers to learning felt by some adults and children.



School and community

- Children do better in school and are less likely to leave school early.
- Builds bridges with families who find school difficult.
- Breaks the intergenerational impact of low literacy levels.

When parents are involved in their child's learning, it positively affects the child's performance at school. It impacts on early years literacy and educational outcomes into the teenage and even adult years.



As a parent or guardian, you are your child's first teacher. Your home is where lots of learning is happening every day. Your most important job when it comes to your child's learning is to show interest and get involved. You make a difference every day when you talk, play, read, write and count with your child.

Here are some tips to support your child's learning by age group:

Stories and books



Stories are not just found in books.

Make up a story using your child's favourite toys.



Make your own **story book** by cutting out pictures from magazines and newspapers.



Borrow an **audio book** from the library and listen to it together.



Read a **book of a film**. This is a good example of reading for fun.



PLAY

Play **scrabble** together. Make it more interesting by making up your own rules, for example only 4 letter words. Have a dictionary nearby to check spellings.

Age 0 - 2

Age 3 - 4

Age 5 - 7

Age 8 - 9

Age 10 - 12

Maths around us



Fingers and toes are a great **counting** tool. It is a good time to do this when you are changing them.



Talk about the **shapes** of everyday things. Ask your child what shapes they can see when you are out for a walk.



Play **snakes and ladders**. It will teach your child step-by-step counting, about taking turns and how to win and lose gracefully.



Cooking helps counting! Recipes are great for getting your child counting and using numbers - amounts, weights, temperatures.



Give your child some pocket money and see how they develop their **money skills**. In the shops look at what change you get - it's a good example of subtraction.



Age 0 - 2

Age 3 - 4

Age 5 - 7

Age 8 - 9

Age 10 - 12

More information

Help My Kid Learn website has lots more tips for parents.
www.helpmykidlearn.ie



Other resources

- At Home with Family Learning **booklet**: <http://bit.ly/2ganzWG>
- National Council for Curriculum and Assessment website: www.ncca.ie