

Suggested Learning Activities for Years 1 and 2

Reading:

- Share books and read together
- You can read in your first language
- Read songs, waiata, poems and rhymes
- Play card and board games together
- Make some puppets – old socks, cardboard tubes, cut-outs on sticks – that you and your child can use to act out the story you have read. Or dress up and make it into a play
- Talk about the story and the pictures, other stories you have read, and experiences you have both had that are like those in the story

Writing:

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter
- Water and a paintbrush on a dry path and a stick on sand are fun ways to write letters and words
- Help them email, text or write to family, whānau or friends
- Encourage your child to write – on paper or on the computer. It is okay for you to help and share the writing - give lots of praise

Mathematics:

- Count forwards and backwards (clocks, fingers and toes, action rhymes, signs)
- Make patterns when counting "clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4, clap 5..."
- Use words in everyday play like "under", "over", "between", "around", "behind", "up", "down", "heavy", "light", "round", "circle", "yesterday", "tomorrow"
- Ask questions like "How many apples do we need for lunch? What do you think the weather is going to be like today/tomorrow?"
- Play with water using different shaped containers and measuring cups in the sink or bath
- Do jigsaw puzzles, play card and board games and build with blocks

General advice for parents of students at home

Some great websites:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths/>

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/supporting-school-maths>

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/maths-our-house>

Helping out with cooking and baking makes use of their maths skills and shows them how maths is all around them. Helping with housework also teaches your child lots of important skills about being organised, being part of the family, co-operating and contributing.

Key competencies: As well as literacy and numeracy, The New Zealand Curriculum includes some important key competencies to prepare young people for life and work, and so that they can adapt and function well in the world.

These include ‘thinking’, ‘managing self’, ‘relating to others’ and ‘participating and contributing’.

The 14-day at-home period is a good opportunity to do things together that use one or more key competencies.

You could:

Plan a meal together (managing self)

Get some discussions going, for example, talk to your child about how (critical) thinking is important to make sense of everything they do at school and at home. Find some news items or opinion pieces and discuss whether you each agree with what’s been said. Why? Why not?

Or talk about different ways of “being” in the world. Compare the different cultures in your life, so you can talk about how things are in different contexts, and why (relating to others).