

A strong, positive home and school partnership is a vital ingredient of any child's education. It is imperative that there is a joint vision; that the learning goals for your child are shared and supported. Constructive relationships between teachers, children and parents assist in fostering an enthusiasm for learning. Authentic experiences, such as those suggested in this brochure, help to reinforce skills and strategies. You, as parents, have the role as co-educators in a partnership where "Learning for Life" is continuous process.

Sunnyhills' learners will be independent, articulate thinkers, able to take risks and solve problems. They will be highly literate and numerate and be connected through effective use of ICT in a changing, global society.

# SUNNYHILLS SCHOOL

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME



### Year 1

## HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH MATHEMATICS AT HOME – YEAR 1

### Talk together and have fun with numbers and patterns

Help your child:

- Find numbers around your home and neighbourhood – clocks, letterboxes, speed signs
- Count forwards and backwards (microwave, clocks, fingers and toes, letterboxes, action rhymes, signs)
- Make patterns when counting “clap 1, stamp 2, clap 3, stamp 4”
- Make up number stories – “You have 2 brothers and 2 sisters. There are 4 of them”.

### Use easy, everyday activities

Involve your child in:

- Preparing and sharing out food – “One for me and one for you”. Ask, “How many for each of us?”
- Talking about time – “lunchtime”, “storytime”, “bedtime”
- Use lots of mathematical words as your child is playing to develop their understanding of early Mathematics
- Using words in everyday play like “under”, “over”, “between”, “around”, “behind”, “up”, “down”, “heavy”, “light”, “round”, “circle”, “yesterday”, “tomorrow”. You can get library books with these words and ideas in them too
- Asking questions like “How many apples do we need for lunches? What do you think the weather is going to be like today/tomorrow? What are we going to do next?”

### For wet afternoons/school holidays/weekends

- Play with water using different shaped containers and measuring cups in the sink or bath
- Bake – talk to your child about the recipe/ingredients using words like “How many?” “How much?” “More”.
- Play dress-ups and getting dressed, use words like “short”, “long”, and ask questions like “What goes on first?”, “What goes on next?”, “Does it fit?”
- Create a ‘sorting box’ with all sorts of ‘treasure’ – bottle tops, shells, stones, cardboard shapes, leaves. Ask questions like “How many?”, “Which is the biggest group?”, “Which is the smallest?”, “How many for each of us?”
- Do jigsaw puzzles, play card and board games and build with blocks
- Being positive about Mathematics is really important for your child’s learning

## HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH WRITING AT HOME – YEAR 1

### Make writing fun

- Help your child write an alphabet letter, then go letter hunting in your house or in a book to find that letter
- Let your child see you writing – you can use your first language
- Encourage them to write shopping lists or make birthday cards
- Water and paintbrush on a dry path and a stick on sand are fun ways to write letters and words
- Don’t worry if your child’s letters or words are sometimes backwards or misspelt at this age. The important thing is that they have fun writing at home and are making an effort

### Give them reasons to write

- Write to each other. Write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like their lunch box. Ask them to write a reply
- Help them email or write to family, whanau or friends
- Show them how letters and words are formed
- Work with them to put labels on special things – like the door to their room or their toy box
- Display their work. Be proud of it. Share it with others

### Talk about their writing

- Talk about the letters in your child’s name and where the name comes from
- Help them create a scrapbook with pictures
- Encourage them to write stories under the pictures and talk to you about them
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw. Get them to tell you the story. Write or type the story under their writing if they want you to
- Talk about what your child writes

### Talk about their writing

- Have felt pens, pencils, crayons and paper available
- Put magnetic letters on the fridge – ask what words they can make with the letters

**Please also refer to Ministry website:**

**[www.minedu.govt.nz/parentssupportingyourchild](http://www.minedu.govt.nz/parentssupportingyourchild)**

**Please note the link at the bottom of each year level page for extra support**

## HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH READING AT HOME – YEAR 1

### Make reading fun

- Reading at home should be fun and easy – something you both look forward to; a time for laughter and talk
- Share the reading, take turns or see whether your child wants to read or be read to today
- All children like to be read to, so keep reading to them. You can read in your first language
- Visit the library together to help them choose books to share
- Read emails from family or whanau aloud
- Play card and board games together

### Talk about reading

- Talk about pictures in books
- Talk about the learning they are doing and what they are most interested in
- Sing waiata and songs, make up rhymes together
- Be a role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading and talk about what you are enjoying
- Share favourite books, point out words on signs, shops and labels, read poems and play word games like “I Spy” and “Simon Says...”
- If your child is stuck on a word wait a few seconds, give them a chance to think. If they are still stuck, help them to try to work the word out by saying “Read the sentence again and think what would make sense”. Ask “Could it be...?” (and give a word that might fit). The pictures also help them check they have got the right word. If they still can’t work out the word, tell them and praise their efforts. Remember, reading should be fun

### Make it a special time together

- Quiet and relaxing, a time to sit close to your child
- 10 – 15 minutes without interruption, away from the TV
- A time to praise your child for making an effort
- Help your child to link stories to their own life
- Remind them about what they have done when a similar thing happens in the story