



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



English in the first 6 months at school



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About this Easy Read

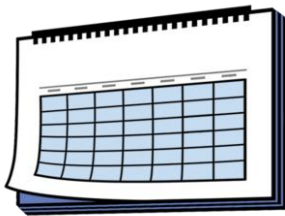


**Te Tāhuhu o
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This Easy Read is from the **Ministry of Education**.



The **Ministry of Education** is the part of the Government in charge of schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.



This Easy Read is about what your child will learn in English classes in their first 6 months at school.



Your child will work on:

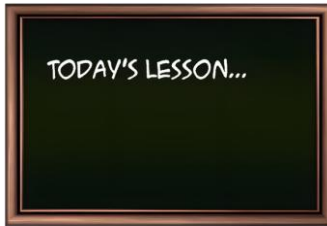
- reading
- writing
- **oral language.**





Oral language means:

- speaking
- listening.



This Easy Read tells you:

- what your child will learn at school
- how you can support your child with their English learning at home.



You can learn more about what your child will learn in English classes in their first 6 months at school on this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/3nfk92cm>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

What your child will learn about oral language at school



The teacher will support your child to get better at using oral language.

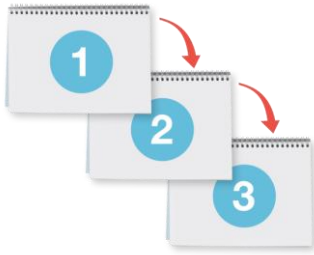


By the end of their first year at school your child will be able to:



- ask questions like:
 - who is doing an activity?
 - what is happening?
 - where is the activity happening?
- answer these questions.





By the end of their first year at school
your child will also be able to:



- explain why things happen using words like:
 - because
 - so
- do a short talk in a group
- listen well
- say what they:
 - like
 - think
 - need
- ask for support.



By the end of their first year at school
your child will also know how to join
in with a conversation.

Things you can do at home to support your child with oral language



There are lots of things you can do at home to support your child to get better at oral language.



You can play with language by:

- using made-up words
- talking in a silly voice
- changing:
 - the way you speak
 - how loudly you speak.





You can:

- ask your child questions
- tell them what you think
- talk about what is happening.



You can also ask your child to:

- ask you questions
- tell you what they think
- talk about what is happening.



You can tell your child stories about:

- your whānau / family
- where you come from.



You can play games with words.



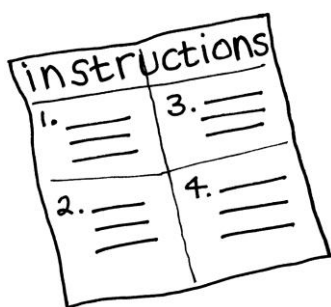
You can make up:

- stories
- rhymes
- songs.



You can:

- give your child easy **instructions**
- ask them to give you instructions.



Instructions are when you tell someone:

- what to do
- how to do something.



You can ask your child to tell you how something works.

What your child will learn about reading at school



The teacher will support your child to get better at reading.



At school your child will learn:

- the letters
- what sound each letter makes.



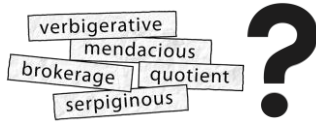
Your child will learn to join the sounds together to read easy words.



Your child will learn how to fix the mistakes they make when they are reading.



Your child will learn to read easy sentences.



Your child will learn how to ask about words they do not know.



Your child will learn how to guess what happens next in stories.



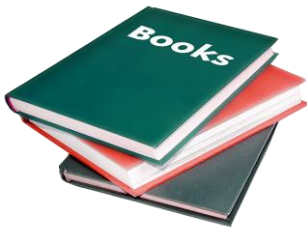
Your child will learn to **relate** to:

- the people in stories
- what happens in stories.



Here to **relate** to a story means to think about:

- how the people in the story feel
- if the things in the story have ever happened to you
- what you might do if the story happened to you.



In the first 6 months at school your child will mostly read **decodable texts**.



A **decodable text** is a book with:

- letters your child has learnt
- sounds your child has learnt.



Using decodable texts means your child can practise reading using:

- letters they know
- sounds they know.



Your child will bring books home from school so they can practise reading at home.

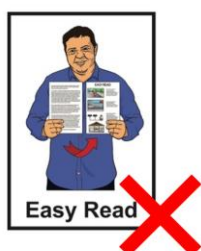


This **website** has more information about:

- books you could read with your child
- how to read with your child:



<https://tinyurl.com/3nfk92cm>



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

Things you can do at home to support your child with reading



Children enjoy reading when it is:

- interesting
- a special time.



Try to read with your child for at least 10 minutes with no **interruptions**.



An **interruption** is when something stops you from doing the activity you were working on.



An example of an interruption is answering the phone while you are reading with your child.



To support your child with reading you can:

- look for:
 - letters
 - words
- talk about the:
 - letters you see
 - words you see.



You can also:

- sound out:
 - letters
 - words
- find things that begin with the letter you are talking about.





You can also support your child with reading by talking about how the stories they read link to their life.



For example if you read a story about a farm you could talk about a time your child went to a farm.

What your child will learn about writing at school



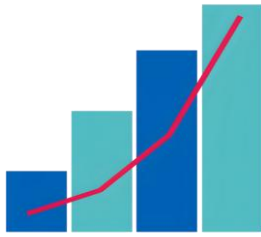
The teacher will support your child to get better at writing.

At school your child will learn how to:



- use a pencil to write:
 - letters properly
 - numbers properly
- spell words by thinking about:
 - what sounds are in the word
 - the order the sounds happen in.





At school your child will also learn how to:

- spell words that they use all the time like:
 - I
 - a
 - the
- think about who will read their writing.

Things you can do at home to support your child with writing



There are lots of things you can do at home to support your child with writing.



You can make letters out of things like:

- stones
- blocks
- buttons
- shells
- playdough.





You can bake biscuits shaped like letters.

You can use **magnetic** letters to spell words.



Something is **magnetic** if it sticks to metal things like your fridge.



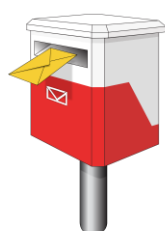
You can support your child to write to:

- friends
- whānau / family.



Your child could write:

- an email
- a text message
- a letter.





You can support your child to:

- draw pictures
- write:
 - their name
 - letters
 - numbers.



You can support your child to write words using what they know about:

- letters
- sounds.



This information has been written by the Ministry of Education.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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