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

English in the first 6 months at school

Adapted in 2026 by Accessible Formats Service,
Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

Transcriber's Note: The logo at the top of the page is
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga Ministry of Education.

English in the first 6 months at school

For English in the first 6 months of school, your child's teacher will focus on oral language, reading and writing.

Oral language

Ideas to support oral language at home

With your child, you could:

- play with language by using made up words, silly voices, or changing tone or volume
- ask questions, talk about your thoughts, describe what is happening and ask them to do the same
- tell them stories of your genealogy and the places you come from
- play word games
- make up stories, rhymes and songs
- give simple instructions and ask them to give you instructions
- ask them to explain how something works.

The teacher will focus on expanding your child's oral language knowledge and skills. For example, by the end of the year, your child will be able to:

- ask and answer questions to find out who is involved, what is happening, and where it's taking place
- explain why things happen by using words like "because" or "so"
- do short presentations as part of a group
- listen well and join conversations appropriately
- use simple phrases to share what they like or think
- ask for help and share their needs.

Reading

Ideas to support reading at home

Reading can be enjoyable for you and your child if it:

- lasts for 10 minutes at least without interruption
- is an interesting and special time.

With your child, you could:

- look for letters or words and talk about them
- sound out letters and words
- find things that begin with that letter or word
- help your child to link stories to their life.

The teacher will focus on expanding your child's reading knowledge and skills.

The alphabet

Your child will learn the letters and their sounds.

Simple words

They will read simple words by putting sounds together.

How to fix mistakes

They will learn to correct their reading mistakes.

Understanding

They will read simple sentences and ask about new words.

Guessing

They will guess what happens next in stories.

Connecting

They will relate to characters and events in stories.

Texts for the first 6 months at school

Books used during the first 6 months at school are likely to be decodable texts. They contain sounds and letters that children have learned. This will help your child practise reading words with sounds and letters in a story.

The books they bring home will give them extra practice with the reading knowledge and skills they learned. There is an example book on the page below.

Reading books at home in the first 6 months:

<https://tinyurl.com/4y2njp4n>

(The resources there may not be accessible.)

Writing

Ideas to support writing at home

With your child, you could:

- make letters of the alphabet out of things such as stones, blocks, buttons, shells or playdough
- bake biscuits in the shape of the letters
- spell words with magnetic letters
- email, text or write to relatives or friends
- draw pictures and write their name, letters and numbers
- write words using their knowledge of sounds and letters.

The teacher will focus on expanding your child's writing knowledge and skills. For example, your child will be taught to:

- handwrite letters and numbers correctly
- spell words by breaking them into sounds
- spell common words like "I", "the", and "a"
- think about who will read their writing.

For more information visit

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8/first-6-months-at-school/english-in-the-first-6-months-at-school> or shortened url: <https://tinyurl.com/3nfk92cm>

End of English in the first 6 months at school