



**October 2024**

<https://cameron.burnabyschools.ca>

*Cameron Elementary School: safe, respectful, supportive and compassionate*

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear Cameron Families,

The start of the year has gone well and, although fast paced, we are operational and fully staffed. We appreciate your patience as we organized students into classes. We continue to see growth in our community and the school is nearly full with only a few remaining spaces left for potential in-catchment families. We have a portable project on the go, and we hope to be able to move some existing classes into this new space in the coming months. This will allow us full use of our library and expansion of our breakfast program and afterschool program space.

As many of you know, we had an exciting school announcement last month. The province has pledged close to 70 million dollars for a replacement school that will be located on the gravel field on the south side of the property. We will see an increase of 425 seats in the new building increasing the total capacity of the new school to 770 students. While the build is taking place, our current site will remain operational. The school district is currently working to hire an architectural firm to prepare the detailed, site-based planning. See further info through the hyperlinks below:

[Burnaby Now Article](#)

[Burnaby School District Site](#)

Our community barbeque at the start of the year was a tremendous success. Not only was the weather perfect, but the community attendance and the overwhelming support of many different community organizations led to its success. The live band, food prepared by Burnaby firefighters, and the school contribution created a relaxed environment for the evening. The various community groups that set up tables and provided both labour and financial support made this event both welcoming and enjoyable. Ice cream and line dancing at the end of the night was a great way to cap off the event. This was a great way to bring the greater community together to connect, but also to talk about the possibilities for improving communication, especially around expanding infrastructure and community needs.

I encourage you to attend the next PAC meeting tomorrow, Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Agenda and information was sent out through an email earlier in the week.

Respectfully,  
Sean Gaster

## School Schedule

School starts each day with a warning bell at 8:55am. Students should arrive as close to our starting time as possible to this time as we are unable to provide supervision before or after school. Please be sure to make arrangements for your child for before and after school supervision.

<b>Morning</b>	8:55am	Classes begin.
	10:15am	Recess break begins.
	10:30am	Recess break ends.
<b>Afternoon</b>	11:55am	Lunch break begins.
	12:05pm	Students may go outside
	12:40pm	Classes begin for the afternoon.
	2:48pm	Students dismissed to go home.



## Absences and Lates

Please contact the school before 8:45am whenever your child is absent from school or will be arriving late, preferably by email to [Cameron.Info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Cameron.Info@burnabyschools.ca), otherwise by phone 604-296-9005 Option 2.



Please provide the following information: Child's First and Last Name, Teacher's name or Division, Dates of absence or, if late, estimated time of arrival.

If we do not hear from you and your child is absent, we will attempt to contact you. Please keep us informed of changes in phone numbers, addresses and emergency contacts. Any student who arrives late must first come to the school office to sign in and then proceed to their classroom. We expect students to arrive on time. Arriving on time helps children begin their day smoothly. Not only is promptness an excellent lifelong habit but it is also less distracting for other students.

## Life Threatening Allergies



Cameron Elementary School is a "Nut Aware" school. There are a number of children with life-threatening nut/peanut allergies at our school. We strongly request that your child NOT bring any nut/peanut products to school. If it is essential your child bring a nut product, please let the teacher know so they can take extra precautions. Nut-safe snack ideas include: yogurt, fruit, cheese and crackers, nut-free granola bars, pasta, veggies and dip, boiled eggs and cottage cheese. Thank you for keeping our school a safe place for everyone.



- October 24 —Individual Picture Retakes
- October 25 —School Closed Professional Development Day
- November 8—Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11—School Closed Remembrance Day
- November 22—School Closed Professional Development Day

## **Hot Lunch Program**

Please make payments through School Cash Online at <https://burnaby.schoolcashionline.com/> Partial payments to full payment and fully subsidized options are available.

If you are experiencing trouble signing up for School Cash, please email me or call me and I'll be happy to help you. You can reach me at [Janice.Brown@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:Janice.Brown@burnabyschools.ca) or call me at 604-296-9005. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

## **Dressing for the Weather**



Just a reminder that students will be going outside at recess and lunch time, with the exception of extreme weather. Please make sure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be going outside in inclement weather. We highly recommend a change of clothes be left at school for what we know will be those wet days ahead of us.

## **Paper Forms to be Completed**

### **Verification Forms**

Student Verification Forms, printed on yellow paper, have been sent home. Please sign the forms and make any changes on them if necessary and return them to your child's teacher by Friday, October 18th. It is important for the school to have current contact information for parents so that we will be able to reach you in the event of an emergency. If we are unable to reach a parent/guardian, we will call the next contact on the list.

### **Emergency Release Forms**

These forms, printed on blue paper, were sent home with the Verification Forms. "Authorized Designates" (Contacts) on the Emergency Release Form must be walking distance to the School as in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster, roads may be impassable.



## **Individual Picture Day and Picture Re-Takes**

Individual photos of each student were taken on Thursday, October 2nd. Your child should have a sheet similar to the one on the right.

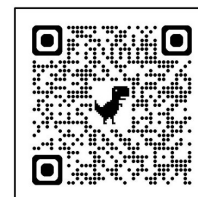
If you do not have an Express Proof for your child, contact Photo Expressions at [studio@photoexpressions.ca](mailto:studio@photoexpressions.ca) or 604-477-7399 to request your Online Code.

Photo Re-Takes will be taken on *Thursday, October 24th*.

YOUR PHOTOS ARE ONLINE! Scan the QR code below!  
(Or visit weblink below)



Visit [photoexpressions.ca/orders](http://photoexpressions.ca/orders) and enter your Online Code



Your personal Online Code →

## **Student Safety**

**Street Crossing:** Please use the raised crosswalk on Bartlett Court. Jaywalking is dangerous and we need your help and example to get all our children to and from school safely! Please remind your children about using safe practices when walking to school (always walking on the sidewalk, crossing at street corners, and using the crosswalks.)



**Parking:** Please follow the parking regulations as they provide a clear line of vision from the crosswalk. Please do not stop in front of the staff parking lot or the fire lane. ***Please note the school parking lot is for staff members only. It is not to be used for drop off or pickup of students at any time.***



## **Cameron Elementary School Website** <https://cameron.burnabyschools.ca>

Our school website offers a variety of ways to keep updated on events and information about our school community and is updated regularly. Here are a few features that we hope are helpful:

- The “Calendar” drop-down menu on our homepage, has access to a monthly events calendar, as well as a list of important dates and the district’s 3-year calendar. A list of upcoming events is also available on the right side of the homepage.
- The “School Info” drop-down menu includes several resources about school policies and procedures.
- The “Staff” tab has a list of all our staff members, useful if you should need to contact your child’s teacher, you can find a direct link to email him or her.
- The “Parents “ tab has links to the Hot Lunch Program Menu Calendar, Cameron PAC, Newsletters, School Fees Online, School Supply Lists, and Child Care Resource and YMCA Kids Club

## **Orange Shirt Day**

The students and staff of Cameron had the opportunity to create their own personal land acknowledgement to provide a deeper understanding, commitment, and connection to our daily Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. A personal acknowledgement is being read each day in our morning announcements and two of our students shared their personal acknowledgements at our Orange Shirt Day assembly.

Orange Shirt Day is an annual day of recognition on September 30, when people are encouraged to wear an orange shirt in recognition of the long-lasting harmful effects of residential schools in Canada. The orange shirt, established by the story of Phyllis Webstad, symbolizes the resilience and regeneration of Indigenous culture in Canada. The day has now been titled National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



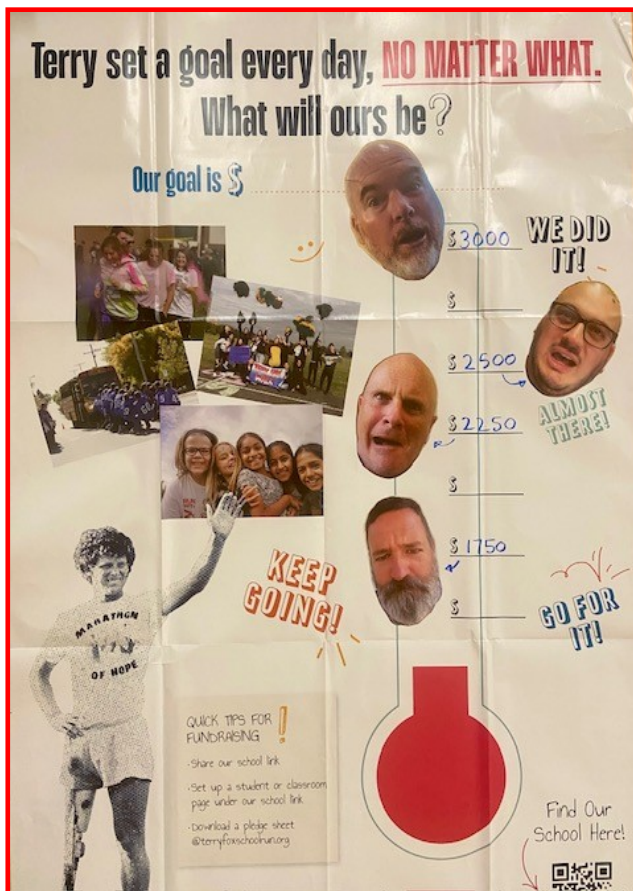


## Terry Fox Run

Cameron Elementary completed another successful Terry Fox run on Friday, October 4. The school community came together in so many ways to honour the memory and accomplishments of Terry Fox.



Ms. Wyatt's class did a great job organizing our school's events, including the Terry Fox assembly. They provided MCs, powerpoint, warm up leaders, as well as handed out the pledge forms. Students in Ms. Wyatt's class also went to classrooms for our 3 Toonies for Terry collection dates!



Other Grade 7 leaders contributed to the assembly as well. Kaylyn read her Terry Fox poem and Isi shared her personal land acknowledgement.

Who could forget the run? The weather was great! All staff and students who were able, laced up their runners to jog or walk around various Terry Fox run routes. Thanks to Mr. Neilson and Ms. Rampersad for coordinating the parents and staff to supervise and hand out healthy snacks after the run. A special thanks to the parents who came out to help us!

So how much money did Cameron Elementary raise for the Terry Fox Foundation? This was yet another accomplishment! Our grand total was \$2842!!! WAY TO GO CAMERON COMMUNITY!

As an incentive to collect funds to support cancer research, various staff volunteered to be duct taped to a wall! Thanks to our fundraising it looks like Mr. C, Mr. D'Agnolo and Mr. Borean will be on the wall! We could not quite get to our goal of \$3000, but there is always next year!

On Tuesday, October 15th Cameron Elementary celebrated the money raised for the Terry Fox Foundation: \$2842!

Mr. Charboneau, Mr. D'Agnolo and Mr. Borean were duct taped to the wall...here is how that went! The students in Ms. Wyatt's class worked in teams to duct tape. Hundreds of Cameron students came to the gym to be spectators for this fun event!





## Cameron Welcome Back BBQ

Our first week back to school focused on lessons to explicitly, collaboratively, and mindfully build a community that is safe, respectful, compassionate, and supportive which is one of our school goals at Cameron. The week was also full of reconnecting after summer, followed by a wonderful school wide picnic lunch on the front lawn. It is always amazing when we can all see each other together in one location.



The second week back continued the opportunities for connecting as we hosted the North Burnaby Community Fair. The event involved a BBQ supported by our fire fighters, a local band, line dancing, an imagination playground, yoga, soccer, a multilingual poetry walk, ice cream, as well as twenty tables showcasing many of the community groups of our area. Again, it was wonderful to see close to 2000 of our neighbours together in one place.



## Messages from the PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

**Dear Cameron Community,**

We are excited for the year ahead as we work on some new fundraisers and events which we will share over the coming months.

Our PAC Executive is eager to connect with parents and gain some more members and volunteers!

Here is a list of this year's Executive members. We still have vacant positions (see below). If you have any questions or interest in getting involved, please reach out to us to learn more!

**Chair** - Jesse Corrigan, **Vice Chair** - Vacant

**Secretary** - Rami Touffaha

**Treasurer** - Sandra Vargas (leaving position)

**Social Coordinator** - Hajira Insafi

**DPAC Liaison** - Vacant

**Emergency Preparedness** - Nargis Andish

**Special Projects** - Melissa Wilson

**Communication Coordinator** - Vacant

**Fundraising** - Vacant



Many of these roles can be supported remotely, with periodic in-person events. Reach out with questions to [Cameronchair.pac@gmail.com](mailto:Cameronchair.pac@gmail.com). We will strive to answer in a timely manner.

### 50/50 Winner

(pictured with our PAC Secretary Rami Touffaha)

Congratulations to Terence Dantas, the winner of our 50/50 raffle draw on September 12, 2024!

Terence has offered to donate \$200 of his winnings back to the PAC, an amazing gesture! Thank you, Terence!!

This generous donation will support the PAC's ongoing initiatives, including the purchase of books, equipment, instruments, and teacher consumables.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this fundraiser. Keep an eye out for more 50/50 draws in the future!





## Messages from the PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

### **Indigo Fundraiser — Raising funds for literacy!**

The Adopt-A-School campaign just ended on October 14th! Cameron Elementary School had been adopted by Chapters at Metrotown. 100% of the funds raised went to our school library for the purchase of new books!!

Our school is in a rapidly developing urban setting and each year we welcome more and more students. As a result, our school community is incredibly diverse and our goal is to ensure that students, their families, culture, and traditions are reflected in the books they read. Books should be mirrors and windows for children. They want to see themselves in the books they read. Furthermore, a diverse collection of books would foster perspective-taking, understanding and inclusion in our school community.

### **New Fundraising Campaign — APPLES!**

We have partnered with an Okanagan orchard – Sun Oka Farms - to sell their delicious farm-fresh apples. They have won the prize for growing the best apples in Canada for eight straight years! Stay tuned for more details as this fundraiser is set to begin on October 25, 2024.

### **Reminder: Ongoing Fundraisers**

The Cameron Community can help raise funds by participating in the campaigns that are on-going:

- **Loveable Labels** - click [here](#) to access the site and place orders
- **Cobs Bread** - mention Cameron Elementary when purchasing items and a portion of your purchase will go towards our Cameron Fundraiser with Cobs
- **Express Return-It Depot** - provide Cameron Elementary phone number (604-296-9005) to donate your refund amount to our Cameron Campaign.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

November 21

January 16

February 20

April 17

May 15 (AGM)

June 19

### **Our Next PAC Meeting:**

(all parents/guardians are welcome to attend!)

**Thursday, October 17, 2024** - 7:00 pm in the school library

### **Keep in touch**

If you'd like to contact us, please send us an email at

[cameronvolunteer.pac@gmail.com](mailto:cameronvolunteer.pac@gmail.com)



## Halloween Safety Reminders



- Costumes should be light-coloured and flame resistant with reflective strips so that children are more easily seen at night. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)
- Costumes should be short enough to avoid tripping.
- Remind children to keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover the eyes.
- Remind children to walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks - not in the street.
- Explain to children that calls should be made along one side of the street first and then the other, and that it's best to cross the street only at intersections or crosswalks.
- Remind children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Provide yourself or the children with a flashlight to see better and to be better seen.
- Have children plan their route and share it with you and the family.
- Trick or Treaters should travel in groups of four or five. Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Make sure children know they should accept treats at the door and must not get into cars or enter the homes or apartments of strangers.
- Remind children not to eat their treats and goodies until they are examined by an adult at home. And candy should not be eaten if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- Make sure you and your children know where the Block Parent houses are located in the neighborhood.
- Set agreed-to boundaries with your children. Explain the importance of staying within them and arriving home on time.

## Stranger Danger for Kids

The concept of a 'stranger' can be difficult for some children to understand, so police suggest the following safety habits to keep your kids safe:

- teach children not to go anywhere with anyone without first getting permission from a parent/ guardian
- teach children to always have a buddy with them
- practice scenarios with your child. Ask them what they would do if someone approaches them, asks them for help, says their parent sent them
- discuss what to do if your child becomes lost or separated from a parent while out in public
- encourage your child to tell a parent or trusted adult if someone approaches them, or if a situation makes them uncomfortable
- teach your child to trust their instincts and the importance of paying attention to their surroundings
- discuss what to do if someone tries to take them somewhere - shouting, kicking, screaming; use the slogan "If asked to go and your parents don't know, SHOUT NO!"
- teach your older child how to stay safe when home alone

**Safety education is important, as it helps build a child's confidence and critical thinking skills, and prepares them for situations they may encounter.**

# Keeping Costumes Fun



**You can be creative and have fun  
without causing harm.**

**Culture is not a costume,**  
such as: Indigenous regalia.

**Race is not a costume,**  
such as: black or brown face.

**Religious faith is not a costume,**  
such as: religious figures.

**A harmful stereotype is not a costume,**  
such as: mocking gender.

**Trauma is not a costume,**  
such as: weapons.

## Happy Halloween!

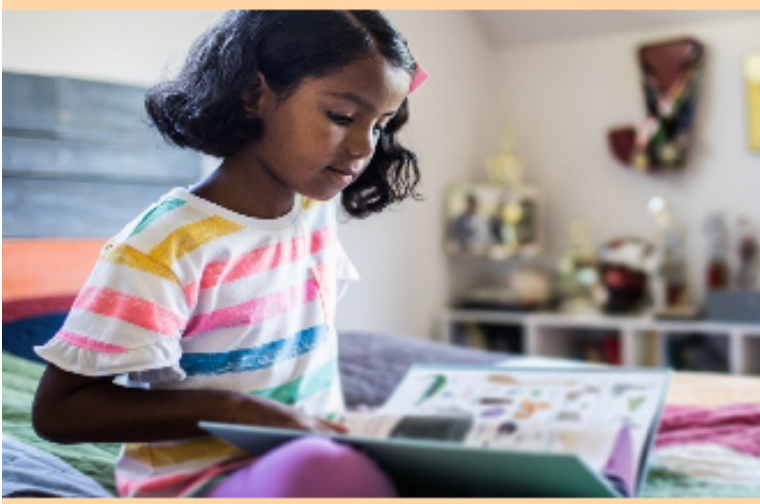


## Information for Parents and Caregivers



Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care

# All about early literacy



When we talk about early literacy, we're talking about what children learn about reading and writing *before* they can fully read and write. Before starting school, your child begins to build their first literacy skills that are essential for their success in school and beyond. In the early grades (Kindergarten to Grade 3), your child will continue to develop these skills and become readers and writers. You can support this development at home and help reinforce their learning at school.

This brief guide will provide you with:

- Helpful tips to build your child's early literacy skills at home;
- An explanation of how teachers will support your child's early literacy in school; and
- Steps you can take if you think your child needs extra support.

## Ideas to try at home:

- **Talk to your child** – right from birth, have conversations and ask them questions.
- **Read to your child** – bedtime stories count!
- **Have books and audiobooks in your home** – the public library is a great resource for free books and audiobooks.
- **Ask your child questions about the books they are reading or listening to** – this builds their understanding.
- **Encourage your child to tell you stories** – spoken language is the start of learning to read and write.
- **Play together** – play is how kids explore new ideas and learn. Find ideas and activities in the [Let's Play Activities for Families](#), [Play Today](#), and [When I Go to Kindergarten](#) guides.
- **Have letter and number toys and games at home** – puzzles, magnets, and board games are fun ways to expose kids to letters, words, and numbers.
- **Play with rhymes** – rhyming books and games help kids learn the sounds of language.
- **Sing together** – songs are a fun way to learn language.
- **Have your child draw, craft, or play with playdough** – before your child can form letters, their hands need to be strong and these activities can help!
- **Point out words in their environment** – on signs, packages, clothing, or toys.
- **Label items at home** – the more words kids see, the stronger their vocabulary becomes.
- **Share new words** – it's not just big—it's also huge, giant, or massive!
- **Attend a class** – Find a [StrongStart](#) near you or check out your local community center or [public library](#) for free early learning activities.



## Information for Parents and Caregivers

### How can I help my child develop early literacy skills at home?

Talking and storytelling are where literacy skills begin. Ask your child questions and share stories with them, including personal stories and stories in your preferred language. Reading with your child every day is also one of the best ways to help them build their early literacy skills. Remember, all reading is valuable—whether it's reading a recipe while you cook together or reading the game cards from a board game. When it's time for your child to read on their own, choose books that interest them as well as some early reader books that they can start to try to read with your help. Teachers may send home books for this purpose. Make sure to ask your child questions about the story, invite them to make guesses about what might happen next, and discuss any new words they come across.

Encourage your child to draw and write regularly. This can include making lists, writing letters, or keeping a journal. Where possible, provide them with fun writing materials like colorful pens, paper, and notebooks. Provide time for your child to express their ideas freely through drawing and writing. Making marks and shapes on paper is the start of writing. Later you can help them practice forming letters correctly.

If you have questions about your child's literacy skills, you can ask your child's teacher or care provider. They can work with you to support your child at home and in school or care.



Ministry of  
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### What can I do to support my child if English or French is not their first language?

You can support your child's early literacy and reading development by reading in both languages. Continue to speak to your child in your preferred language. This will build their ability to speak multiple languages and connect them to their family and cultural backgrounds. If possible, encourage storytelling, play word games, label items, and sing songs in all languages to make learning fun and meaningful.

#### Early Literacy Resources for Families:

- Your [public library](#) may offer early literacy programs, including story times for you and your child.
- You can also use the [public library](#) to borrow books and sometimes games, toys, and other literacy resources for your whole family.
- Your whole family can build their literacy skills with a free family literacy program through the [Community Adult Literacy Program \(CALP\)](#).
- If you have a baby or toddler, there are many services you can use to [check and support their development](#).
- You may have a free [StrongStart BC](#) program run through your public school to attend with your child.
- You can also visit your local [Child Care Resource and Referral's](#) lending library to borrow free books, toys, games, and literacy kits.
- If your child is school-aged, their school is already monitoring their early literacy development.
- Your child's teacher may also be using the [Learning in the Primary Years](#) to support your child's learning.
- Your child's child care provider or primary teacher may be guiding their learning using the Early Learning Framework. Learn more in the [Early Learning Framework A Guide for Families](#).

## Information for Parents and Caregivers



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### How can I build my literacy skills if English isn't my first language?

As a parent or caregiver, there are many free ways to improve your literacy skills.

School districts offer adult education courses for free for adult students. Many [public colleges and universities](#) also offer free adult education and English Language Learning programs. Contact your local college, university, or [school district](#) to learn more about eligibility, available courses, and start dates.

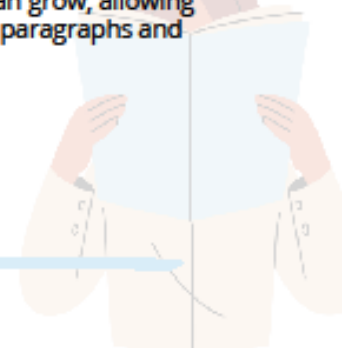
The Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) offers free adult, family, and Indigenous literacy classes and programs across British Columbia. The adult classes are designed for you, while the family literacy classes improve the reading and writing skills of the whole family. These programs can help you support your child's learning while also improving your own literacy and numeracy skills. [Contact the program](#) closest to you for more information.



### What early literacy skills might I notice my child developing?

From infants to primary school students, you may start to notice some wonderful early literacy skills developing in your child. Here are a few you might notice:

- **Interest In Books:** Your child may begin grabbing books and bringing them to you, showing an interest in reading together. They might even start to tell their own stories based on the pictures, demonstrating their understanding of how stories work.
- **Vocabulary:** As they learn to speak more, their vocabulary will grow. The more words they know, the better they will be able to understand now what they will read later.
- **Storytelling:** As their imagination grows, your child may enjoy telling their own stories, which is a great foundation for writing, later on.
- **Letter and Number Recognition:** You may notice your child pointing out letters and numbers in their environment, such as on signs, packages, and toys.
- **Letter Sounds:** Your child may become curious about letters and the sounds they make. They may start recognizing that different letters make different sounds, which is an important skill for reading.
- **Written Words:** Your child may start to recognize parts of words, helping them sound out new words. They might also begin to recognize whole words they see frequently, building their confidence.
- **Sentences:** Over time, your child may use their understanding of words to make sense of sentences. This skill can grow, allowing them to understand full paragraphs and eventually entire books.





## Information for Parents and Caregivers



Ministry of  
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### How will my child's teacher support their early literacy development in school?

If your child is in school, their teachers will use a variety of strategies to support early literacy development. They will teach your child the basics, like the alphabet, sight words, and how letters and sounds work together (known as phonics), so they can sound out words, spell, recognize, and understand what they see (and later) read. Teachers will also help grow a love of language by reading aloud to your child and asking questions to help your child increase their understanding (or comprehension skills). The classroom will have many books for your child to explore – on their own, with peers, and with their teacher. Your child's teacher will provide opportunities for your child to tell stories and to write in the classroom, helping them learn to form shapes, letters, and later write, as well as express themselves clearly and creatively.

Teachers regularly assess your child's early literacy with different tools to understand how they are progressing in their learning. They can then work with your child to build any skills that may need further support.



**Watching your child's early literacy skills develop can seem magical, but it really begins with home, child care, and/or school working together. When your child receives a blend of support and encouragement while their early literacy develops, it can foster a love for reading and writing that can last a lifetime.**

### What should I do if my child needs extra support in school?

If you or your child's teacher have concerns about your child's reading or writing, the first step is to work together. Your child's teacher may reach out to you if they notice a concern at school, and you can talk to your child's teacher if you notice any concerns at home. Together, you can develop a plan to support your child. You can be part of your child's learning every step of the way.

Your child's teacher will assess all children in their class, including your child. They will use this information to identify any areas your child may need extra support with. They may try new strategies in the classroom to help build your child's skills.

If the classroom teacher feels they need more information, they may talk to you and then ask the inclusive education teacher for help. The inclusive education teacher may also assess your child and may suggest strategies for use in the classroom or decide to work with your child one-on-one or in a small group to support their learning.

If more information is still needed, the inclusive education teacher might talk to you and then refer your child to the school psychologist to gather more information. The school psychologist can give your child's teacher(s) strategies to try at school and can also give you ideas, tools, and games to support your child at home.

Contact Us: [Literacy.Supports@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Literacy.Supports@gov.bc.ca)