

## Make learning fun

Some children show an interest in learning academic content, like literacy, numeracy, science and geography. If this sounds like your child, follow their lead and interests when engaging them with early learning.

Families shared ways they exposed their child to literacy, numeracy and handwriting in a fun and age-appropriate way:

*“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”  
-O. Fred Donaldson*



- Build a child's literacy skills by reading, singing, writing or engaging in make-believe play.
- Playing songs on YouTube that include phonics will develop their phonemic awareness and letter recognition, supporting early literacy development.
- Magnetic letters on the fridge can also assist children in learning early literacy skills.
- Engage in sensory play with shaving cream or sand to develop their child's line formation, leading to letter formation and handwriting skills.
- Build on a child's numeracy skills by exploring mathematical concepts. Include counting objects and learning the week's days and months of the year and grouping items, looking at things that are big and small or heavy and light and exploring the time of the day.
- While many children will learn these things at school, some children are naturally drawn to learning. It's important to support your child's interests, and they will be familiar with these concepts at school.

If your child is showing an interest in academic learning before starting school, speak to your child's therapist or early childhood educator for evidence-based strategies to help your child learn.