

Southern Cross Early Childhood School



Supporting Reading at Home Ten tips from Mem Fox

Spend at least ten
wildly happy minutes
every single day
reading aloud.

From birth!

Read with joy and
enjoyment: real
enjoyment for yourself
and great joy for the
listeners.

Look for rhyme, rhythm
or repetition in books
for young children, and
make sure the books
are really short.



Read at least three stories a
day: it may be the same story
three times. Children need to
hear a thousand stories
before they can begin to learn
to read. Or the same story a
thousand times!

Let children hear lots of language
by talking to them constantly about
the pictures, or anything else
connected to the book; or sing any
old song that you can remember;
or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy
way; or be noisy together doing
clapping games.

Play games with the things that
you and the child can see on the
page, such as letting kids finish
rhymes, and finding the letters
that start the child's name and
yours, remembering that it's
never work, it's always a
fabulous game.

Read aloud with
animation. Listen to
your own voice and
don't be dull, or flat, or
boring. Hang loose and
be loud, have fun and
laugh a lot.

Read the stories that
your child loves, over
and over, and over
again, and always read in
the same 'tune' for each
book: i.e. with the same
intonations and volume
and speed, on each.

Never ever teach
reading, or get tense
around books.

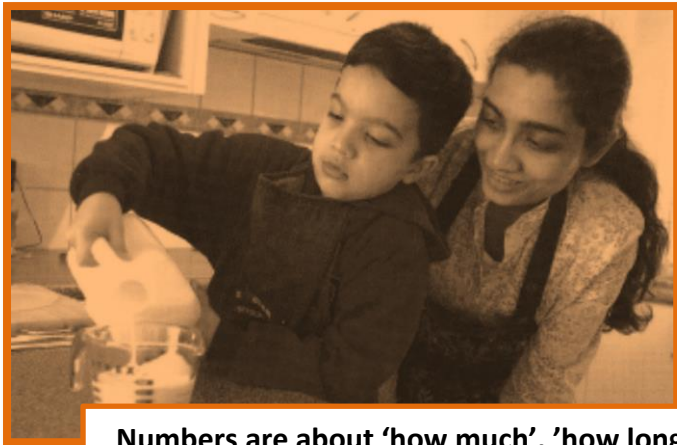
Please read aloud every
day because you just
adore being with your
child, not because it's
the right thing to do.



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Numeracy is in everything we do...



Numbers are about 'how much', 'how long' and 'how many'

- Count houses using the street numbers
- Estimate everything! People, cars, money, smarties and then count them

It can be found in everyday things around us, here are some simple ideas to immerse your child in numeracy.



'Full' and 'empty' are about measurement

- Lots and lots and lots of water play
- pouring sand
- Measure sand castles using buckets
- Allow children to assist when cooking



'Grouping' and 'matching' are about counting

- Count items in pairs (socks)
- Count items in fives (fingers)



'Sorting things' is about classifying

- Sort groceries, toys, marbles and buttons by different values eg. colour, size, temperature or favourites



'Upside down' is about position and direction

- Play pin the tail on the donkey by giving clues such as up, down, right or left
- Discuss the location of items around you, eg. Can you see what is on **top** of the table? or What is **underneath** the table?
- Play 'I Spy' with location clues

Talking about different ways to find a solution helps to build confidence in, "I can do this!"