

# 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.

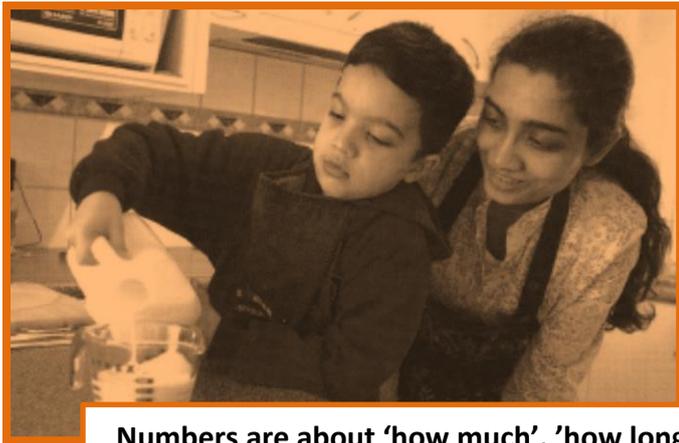
Please read aloud every  
day because you just  
adore being with your  
child, not because it's  
the right thing to do.



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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!"