

## What is Literacy?

Literacy is the ability to develop and communicate understanding in a variety of ways, including speaking, listening, reading, writing and viewing.



## Supporting Literacy at Every Age

In grades 3-5, even though school is an important place for children to build literacy skills, families and community members have key roles to play. There are a number of simple, but important, ways to support literacy growth in the upper elementary grades.

[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)



## What is *Literacy for ME*?

*Literacy for ME* is a statewide effort led by the Maine Department of Education with involvement by community partners to help all Maine citizens develop strong literacy skills.

## How to Get Involved

**If you would like to be involved with *Literacy for ME*, here are some things you can do.**

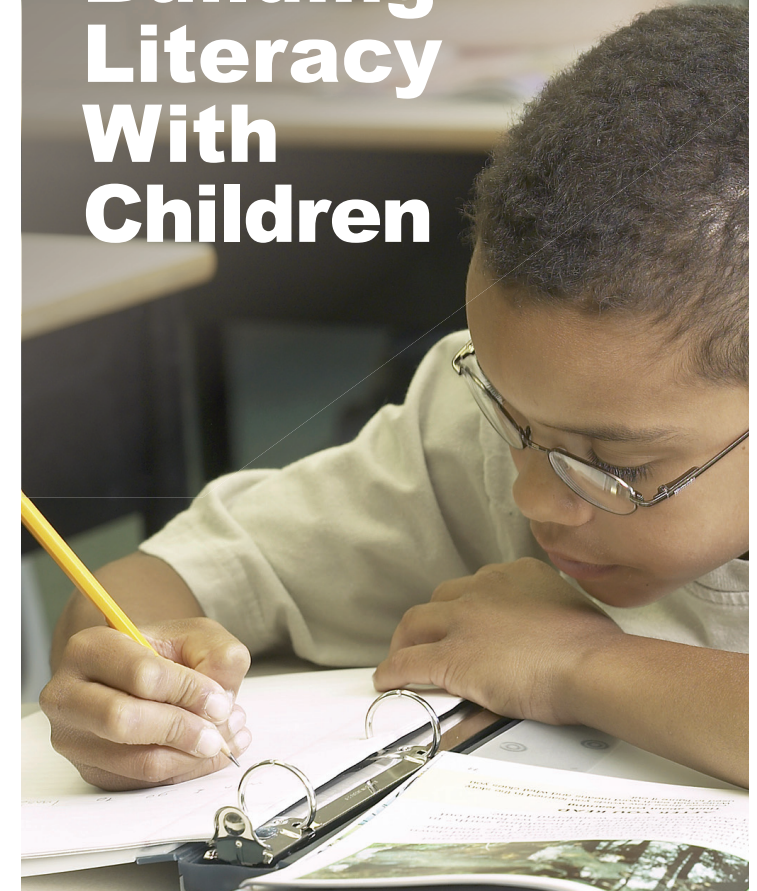
- Share this brochure with family and friends. Encourage them to support literacy as well.
- Visit the *Literacy for ME* website for more literacy resources - [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)
- Contact the Maine Department of Education for additional information at 207-624-6600.



## Contact Your Local Partner

Insert your local contact information here

## Tips for Building Literacy With Children



School Age: Grade 3 to Grade 5



An Initiative of the Maine Department of Education  
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# School Age

## Grade 3–Grade 5

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As children move into the upper elementary grades, their literacy skills improve a great deal. They are able to read longer and more complex texts and write for many purposes. Family and community members can support the literacy learning that happens in school. Here are some tips for encouraging literacy learning with older elementary children.

### **Help children build their vocabulary, listening, and speaking skills.**

- Talk about things you notice and ask children for their thoughts and opinions.
- Ask specific questions about their interests as a way to begin a conversation about school or hobbies.
- Point out interesting words and help children learn what they mean. Ask them to think of other words that mean the same thing.
- Show children how parts of words can help them learn other words (tricycle, triangle, tripod).

### **Encourage children to build good reading habits.**

- Read aloud each day. Children at this age still enjoy hearing stories.
- Encourage different types of reading, including comics and magazines.
- Ask children to tell you about what they are reading.
- Encourage children to reread books they enjoy. Ask what they discover on a second or third read.
- Visit a library. Help children to select books by interest or at the right reading level.
- Help children explore reading on the internet with guidance.

### **Help children build their writing skills.**

- Suggest a variety of different types of writing, such as letters, comics, stories and journals.
- Ask children to write reminders for the family, add events to calendars and create “to do” lists.
- Encourage thank you notes and let children see you writing them as well.
- Create a book about events in your family. This helps children learn how to use writing to hold on to memories and share them with others.
- Encourage English learners to write using words in their own language and work with them to include a translation.