

## 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

Even though school is an important place for elementary 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 in the early elementary years.

[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.**

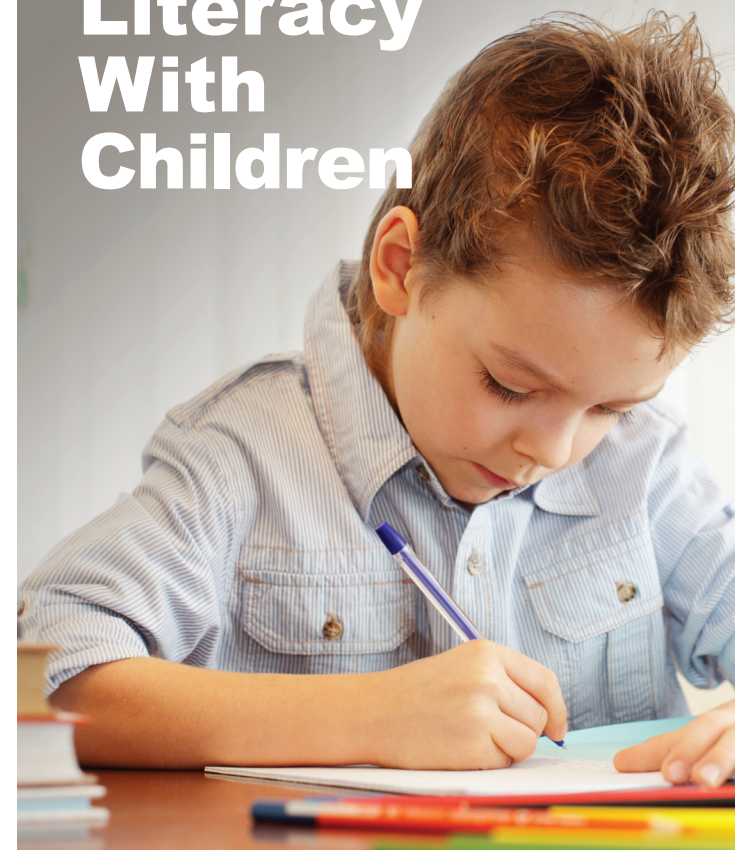
- Share this brochure with family and friends. Encourage them to support literacy as well.
- Visit the *Literacy for ME* website for more literacy resources - [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)
- Contact the Maine Department of Education for additional information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



## Contact Your Local Partner

Insert your local contact information here

## Tips for Building Literacy With Children



School Age: Kindergarten to Grade 2



An Initiative of the Maine Department of Education  
[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)

# School Age

## Kindergarten–Grade 2



During the early elementary years, children's literacy skills develop rapidly.

Children learn by watching the important people in their lives, and by practicing themselves. This means that family and community members can support the literacy learning that happens in school and can help children see themselves as readers, writers and communicators. Here's how to encourage elementary age children.

### Help children develop listening and speaking skills.

- Point out new and interesting words and help children learn what they mean.
- Play “turn taking” games in your conversations, so children can practice the rules of conversation.
- Talk with children about what they are doing, seeing and learning.
- Play with letters and words. Use rhymes, words that begin with the same letter or other games to highlight language use.

### Encourage children to develop good reading habits.

- Read aloud each day and encourage children to read simple books to you.
- Help children begin to recognize letters and the sounds they make as well as common simple words.
- Read a variety of types of texts, including simple stories and informational books.
- Select a special place for reading. Encourage children to decorate a sign for that place.
- Point to new words and talk about what they mean to help children build vocabulary.
- Ask questions about books to help children focus on meaning.

### Help children build their writing skills by encouraging writing activities.

- Help children understand that everything they read was written by someone. When you read together, ask questions about the writing of the story.
- Encourage children to write and illustrate simple stories. Ask them to write what is happening in pictures they draw.
- Model writing for real purposes. Write thank you notes, reminders and “to do” lists and encourage children to write them as well.
- Support spelling development by encouraging children to sound out words. Even temporary spellings help build a strong foundation.