

## APPENDIX 6

### At Home/At School - Making the Connection

As a way of sharing information, it may be helpful to talk to parents about what is expected of children in the classroom and ways in which they may support these expectations at home.

**The following are examples of home-school connections:**

- At school, children will be asked to do some things independently, such as putting on their outerwear and going to the bathroom.
- At home, encourage your child to dress him or herself, and to use the bathroom independently.
- At school, children will learn routines and be responsible for the materials they use and for their belongings.
- At home, encourage your child to take responsibility for belongings and toys, and for putting them away. Encourage your child to listen to instructions and follow through on them.
- At school, children will listen to stories and poems, sing songs, and learn chants. They will talk with others about what they heard or read.
- At home, tell stories or read to your child. Talk about the stories, look at pictures, enjoy them together (in first language or English). Talk about the words you see at home or outside the home.

## APPENDIX 7

### Focusing on Learning Areas

Suggestions for how family members can support their children at home might also focus on a particular area, such as literacy. It is often beneficial to accompany these recommendations with demonstrations, either in person or through a video.

#### Recommendation for readings stories for family members:

Try to find time each day to listen or read stories together.

- Encourage your child to choose books that interest him/her.
- Read favourite stories, again and again!
- Encourage your child to turn the pages when you are reading together.
- Encourage your child to read the parts of the book that are repetitive, along with you.
- Change the tone and pace of your voice when reading - slow down in sad parts or at the end, read quickly when it's a scary passage, loudly when a character is shouting, softly for suspense or when a character is speaking quietly.
- Talk about favourite, funny, or scary parts of the book, ask what might happen next or review passages that may have been confusing.

Many schools have a take-home book program. When children take home books which were read to them at school, they are more likely to take ownership and share the parts they know with members of their family.

This is especially important in families where English is limited. It is also a good idea to include dual language books in the take-home collection for English language learners.

#### Recommendations for writing at home:

- Encourage your child to notice how words appear everywhere in real life.
- Encourage your child to write his/her name.
- Encourage your child to write with you, or on his/her own, such things as:
  - Shopping lists,
  - Invitations, cards,
  - Postcards,
  - Letters,
  - Messages, or
  - Thank you notes.

#### Recommendations for learning about print and letters at home:

- Read alphabet books together.
- Point out the letters in your child's name and the names of family members.
- Point out letters in signs and labels.
- Play letter matching games and concentration games.
- Help your child create his/her own personal alphabet book.
- Put alphabet magnets on your refrigerator.

#### "Real life" math activities for the home:

- When setting the table, count out knives, forks, spoons, and napkins.
- Sorting laundry, counting items by type or colour.
- Point out numbers around the home. (For example, read the numbers in the elevator.)
- Measure while following a recipe.
- Look for shapes around the house.
- Encourage your child to solve problems independently.
- Read number books.
- Play number games such as card games and concentration where players search for matching numerals.