

# 101 Literacy Events

These events are intended for kids, parents, teachers or all three.

1. Babies need books too! Read and sing and tell stories to them. Let them enjoy the pictures.
2. Read to your kids—stories, news, letters, poems.
3. Read *with* your kids, side by side, and as they read.
4. Let your kids read on their own: in the car, in bed, lying on the floor.
5. Play board games—at the kitchen table, on holidays, in the evening.
6. Notice *life print* around you—ads, signs, menus—and point out examples of word play.
7. Make tape recordings with your kids. Take parts, and add sound and music.
8. Let the kids read taped books. They can follow along with the text as they listen.
9. Sing songs with your kids. Share the lyrics.
10. Bus, train or plane trips are for reading, too. Put a bag of books and comics on board.
11. Kids need to collect things. Help them arrange and label each artifact.
12. Find the patterns in books—refrains, lists, completions, parallel sentences.
13. Read alphabet books together. Add your own different words for each letter.
14. Read and write letters to and from friends. Use interesting papers and pens and crayons.
15. Write and read emails. Print them out and make a booklet of them.
16. Download everything that matters.
17. Have the kids connect with an e-pal.
18. Have kids check references to questions that arise on the internet as often as possible.
19. Have kids reread part of a text to prove a point during discussions.
20. Let kids retell a story to own it.
21. Have kids rewrite a story in their own words.
22. Scribe for your kids when they tell you a story.
23. Ask kids to keep a list of the books they read.
24. Have your kids read twenty-five books a year.
25. Have kids read favourite poems aloud each day.

26. Read novels written as poems, such as *Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse.
27. Let the kids read topical non-fiction articles and books.
28. Support the kids' reading of every book in a popular series.
29. Find out about favourite authors from the internet and the media.
30. Watch TV and films made from books with the kids.
31. Attend an author's talk, and share the experience with the kids.
32. Make the kids' homework an effective use of time; plan and organize what can be accomplished.
33. Make graphic organizers to support the process of writing.
34. Help the kids keep journals or notebooks of daily events and feelings, in a special book or on the computer.
35. Write a dialogue journal with your kids about what they are reading; they write, and you write back.
36. Let your kids read the mail: ads, brochures, sales, coupons, portions of letters.
37. Social studies and science are also about reading. Help kids learn how to read information materials, including on the internet.
38. Help kids read manuals to learn how things work.
39. Practise all types of tests. Make them funny, so that kids can learn about test structures (true/false, etc.).
40. Have kids read and circle their choices in the TV guide.
41. Let kids plan for and read maps on an excursion.
42. Kids can read aloud to younger buddies.
43. Kids can read aloud to older buddies.
44. Let kids paint and draw stories.
45. Make handwriting special with calligraphy pens and beautiful paper.
46. Explore different fonts on the computer. Pick a favourite.
47. Make all kinds of books for writing, from scrapbooks to homemade pop-ups.
48. Compare ads in the newspapers for similarities and differences in style and content.
49. Let different kids read different sections of the newspaper.
50. Provide free community papers for kids.
51. Read and write memos of thanks, apologies, and encouragement.
52. Keep bulletin boards up to date with materials that connect to school and home.
53. Read what kids in other places are reading by using surveys from schools on the internet.
54. Have the kids make overheads, charts, and Power Point presentations for different curriculum subjects.

55. Help kids to keep a word bank in a special book or on the computer: demon spelling words, words new to English, unusual words.
56. Help kids learn how words work, by playing word games, by noticing common roots and endings, and seeing patterns.
57. Create a “Word Wall” of words kids will need for a project.
58. Share your own background as a reader.
59. Build comprehension through real conversations about what the kids have read.
60. Let boys read what they want to read.
61. Let girls read what they want to read.
62. Find resources that both boys and girls like.
63. Read books together as a class community.
64. Let everyone read independently for a time.
65. Let kids read books that are connected by place or theme or time.
66. Model reading and writing events for the children every week. Show them how you work with a print text to build meaning. Include your own mistakes and revisions.
67. Invite a bunch of readers for lunch to discuss what they are reading.
68. Read a story with your kids, stop every so often, and have them predict what might happen next.
69. Share your opinion about a book a child has read supplemented by reviews or connected information.
70. Teach your kids to skim and scan for information on the internet.
71. Help kids connect their lives to the books they’re reading.
72. Help kids connect the books they read to world issues.
73. Remember that computer screens are literacy tools.
74. Use the writing process to help kids construct their own significant compositions from their own interests.
75. Write a co-operative poem as a class, with kids suggesting words and lines.
76. Have kids illustrate their writing: older kids can make books for younger kids.
77. Teach kids to cut and paste as they revise and edit their writing.
78. Help kids learn how spelling works by teaching them about patterns, roots, and endings.
79. Punctuate sample texts from which the punctuation has been removed.
80. Help kids understand grammar so they can talk about language.
81. Libraries are free. Go with the kids.
82. Let kids read about places holy to their religion.
83. Create a timetable for focusing on reading and writing strategies.
84. Own your own books and talk about them and display them.

85. Interview your kids about what they're reading; videotape the conversation so you can both revisit the experience.
86. Book reports can kill reading. Use different techniques for promoting reading and deepening understanding.
87. Celebrate your literacy heritage by talking about special moments in your own family's reading events.
88. Laugh your way into literacy with joke books and cartoons.
89. Include pop culture in your reading resources.
90. Let kids find riddles you can't answer.
91. Develop computer zines with the kids.
92. Talk about bestsellers lists in the newspaper, and share what you would like to read. Find lists of bestsellers for kids on the internet.
93. List and talk about everything you have personally read for one whole week.
94. Encourage kids to role-play characters in a story.
95. Encourage emotional responses to a story through discussions.
96. Memorize a poem and say it aloud for the kids.
97. Read scripts out loud together.
98. Make scripts out of stories by combining the narration and the dialogue.
99. Let kids read aloud and share the stories and projects they have written.
100. Read a novel aloud while everyone follows along with their own copies.
101. Let kids find out everything they can about everything!  
Trivia matters!