



## Literacy and Numeracy

### Objective

- Make parents aware of the importance of basics in education.

### Focus on Student Achievement

In addition to reading and math, to succeed in school a child must

- Understand information from multiple sources.
- Interpret this information in a multitude of subjects.
- Think critically and communicate well.

### Facts

- Children who by the age of 8 have not mastered the basic literacy and numeracy skills will have difficulty in school and are at risk of dropping out later.
- A Statistics Canada study has shown that young adolescents who started school with weak skills in reading and writing have fewer chances of completing high school.
- All children should be able to read, write and manipulate numbers at a high level by age 12.
- 50% of students who enter grade 9 do not graduate in grade 12.
- 81% of francophone students complete secondary school, a rate higher than for English speaking children. (Alan King)

### Solutions

To help students improve their reading, writing and math skills, the government has established the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat as well as a special literacy and numeracy program for children in grades one to six. Support for students in grades 7 to 12 is part of the Ministry's curriculum department.

### Objectives of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

The objectives of the Secretariat are:



- To help school boards and their staff improve their teaching practice to improve student learning.
- To build consensus among all stakeholders for a high student achievement.
- To offer training and resource.
- To Obtain parental and community commitment to this initiative.

## Strategies for Parents

For all age groups:

- Praise your children for their effort.
- Read to your child in your language.
- Be patient, we all learn at a different pace.

For younger children:

- Read daily and make it fun. For example, ask your child to read to his dog or cat...or...read the first pages and invent the rest of the story.
- Talk about books or articles you have read.
- Teach math using real money.
- Ask your child to read the recipe while you cook.
- Read the sports pages with your child.
- Choose books of interest to your child.

For older children, not to the exclusion of the above:

- Ask them to teach their young siblings how to read
- Find interesting books for them
- Take them to the library
- Plan a reading activity with other children the same age
- Produce news reports with a video camera
- Involve them in planning the budget, or pretend to start a small business.



## Free Resources

- Libraries
- Internet: here a few useful links:

On the Ministry of Education website, you can download activity guides from the section on Literacy and Numeracy.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/>

On the National Francophone Parents web site, in the publications section, the bilingual magazine Bonjour.

<http://www.cnpf.ca>

And of course on the PPE web site:

<http://www.reseauppe.ca>

In addition to the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, the Ministry and school boards are working together to:

- Limit the number of students per class at 20 from Kindergarten to Grade 3, before 2008.
- Ensure that all curricula revolve around reading and writing.
- Ensure the service of a teacher dedicated to literacy and numeric in each elementary school.
- Supply all required resources to support teachers in the development of strategies to improve reading, writing and math at the elementary level.
- Dispatch special literacy teams to schools where student achievement in literacy and numeracy is low and support principals with required resources to improve achievement.
- Supply additional resources to underperforming schools.
- Offer special programs to motivate students to stay in school until graduation.
- Help parents and encourage them to get involved in helping their children at home in reading and writing, particularly in the early years.



## References

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A bilingual periodical is available free of charge on the National Commission of Francophone Parents web site:

<http://www.cnpf.ca>

If you have questions or comments regarding the subject in this module, simply send an e-mail to Parents partenaires en éducation:

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