



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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