

Fostering a Love of Literacy at Home During the Holidays

On the 12th day of Holidays the teacher said to us.....

1. **Read to your child** - This special time promotes healthy brain development and strengthens bonds.
2. **Read a variety of texts** - Picture books, story books, biographies, digital texts, how-to books, comics, manuals, recipe books, food labels, news articles, etc.
3. **Listen to your child read** - Take turns reading a book, comic, magazine, newspaper or other reading material together.
4. **Talk about the story** - This helps children understand what they are reading.
5. **Read in front of children** - If all household members model reading, it sends a clear message that reading is valuable.
6. **Create a space for reading and writing** - A comfy space with reading materials, pens, pencils, markers and paper nearby will encourage your child to practice their reading and writing skills daily.
7. **Look for opportunities to use reading and writing skills** - For example, have your child write the shopping list, read the traffic signs, and name all the things in the kitchen that start with the letter *P*, etc.
8. **Turn off technology** - Kids often need extra encouragement to pick up a book and read or get pencil and paper and write. (Unless using technology to read or write)
9. **Write messages to family and friends** - Think of a family member, friend or community member who might like to receive a letter, text, email, or notes on the fridge, etc.
10. **Listen to music with your child** - After listening, talk about it. For example, discuss the meaning of lyrics, the historical aspects of the song and the way music makes you feel, etc.
11. **Make up stories together** - Take turns adding details. Start with "Once upon a time..."; "It was a sunny day..." or "Yesterday..." etc.
12. **Visit the local library with your child** - Take advantage of book borrowing and other activities offered at our local library. <http://ecrl.library.ns.ca/> or <http://www.parl.ns.ca>



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