

Australian Curriculum general capabilities

Information for parents and carers

LITERACY

NUMERACY

INFORMATION &
COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY (ICT)
CAPABILITY

CRITICAL AND
CREATIVE
THINKING

PERSONAL &
SOCIAL
CAPABILITY

ETHICAL
UNDERSTANDING

INTERCULTURAL
UNDERSTANDING

Literacy

The Australian Curriculum general capabilities are designed to develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that help children and young people live and learn successfully now and in the future. The capabilities are developed through the learning areas from reception to year 10.

Literacy is a fundamental life skill. It is developed in multiple ways – through listening to, reading, viewing and creating language. First at home and then as part of their education, children learn to understand and use language effectively and confidently. This is essential for learning, communicating and participating in society. What are known as ‘texts’ are the various ways language is used – it can be written, spoken, visual, or a combination of these, and in print, digital or online forms. All of these forms show the diverse ways language is used to communicate in our world.

The Australian Curriculum literacy general capability involves 2 important parts:

- understanding texts through listening, reading and viewing, using skills and strategies to understand and interpret spoken, written, visual and digital texts
- creating texts in spoken, written and digital forms for different purposes and audiences

Through the course of their primary and high school education, students develop literacy capability as they understand and interpret a wide range of texts, and create their own spoken, written, visual and digital texts. These processes involve students developing knowledge of text structures, grammar, vocabulary and spelling, and visual information.

A good example of how literacy is dynamic and critical across the curriculum is health and physical education, where reception-age students develop their word knowledge and use language to communicate effectively and interact positively with others as they work in groups or participate in team games.

Another example is year 6 science, where students develop word knowledge and an understanding of text structures to describe their observations during investigations. They need to learn how to effectively communicate their findings in a variety of ways.

In year 8 English, students learn to talk about and evaluate opinions and arguments about aspects of literary texts such as novels, films or magazine articles. They develop knowledge about text structure and grammar to state their opinions and points of view, and continue to expand their word knowledge to communicate more effectively.

At home, you can help your child develop literacy capability by:

- playing games to develop knowledge and enjoyment of learning new words
- sharing a wide variety of age-appropriate texts with your child, including books, novels, websites, newspaper, films and television programs
- talking about favourite authors, directors and producers and why you like their work
- accessing support materials for parents of young children at www.greatstart.sa.edu.au
- another useful website is www.raisingchildren.net.au

Find more information at www.australiancurriculum.edu.au



Government of South Australia

Department of Education and
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