

What do parents/guardians need to know about Literacy?

This learning guide is designed for use by parents/guardians as a self-paced study to explore literacy. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to use this learning guide as a discussion starter at a School Council Meeting, Parent Information Event, or other school community event.



This learning guide is intended for use after viewing the Alberta Education video clips, [Literacy: A World to Discover](#) and [Literacy in a Digital World](#).

Literacy involves the ability to acquire, construct, connect and communicate meaning in all aspects of our lives. It is constantly evolving as new digital technologies and information sharing communities transform how students acquire, construct and communicate meaning.

Key ideas:

- Although reading and writing are essential components of literacy, its definition is evolving to include a variety of methods of communication.
- Literacy is foundational for continuous learning and provides individuals with the ability to achieve personal goals, develop knowledge and potential, and participate fully in society.
- Parents are the student's first teachers of literacy.
- All educators are teachers of literacy. Although many literacy skills are transferable, there are literacy skills that are specific to content area subjects (e.g., reading a periodical table).
- Students need opportunities to use literacy knowledge and skills in a variety of contexts to be able to master and efficiently transfer them across subject areas and disciplines.
- Responding effectively to students' literacy needs requires innovative solutions, a clear direction, and a collaborative approach.
- The diversity of learners in Alberta underscores the need for a broad, inclusive approach to literacy that addresses individual learners' needs.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- How do the examples in the videos challenge or affirm what you know about literacy?
- Are there literacies that were missed in the video?
- What does it mean to be a fully literate person?
- How does technology change what it means to be literate?
- How does a broader understanding of literacy change the role of students? Parents? Teachers?

For more information:

[Literacy and Numeracy](#) (Alberta Education)

[Literacy First: A Plan for Action](#) (Alberta Education)

[Literacy for All](#) Videos (ARPDC)

[Learning Technologies](#) Support for Implementation (ARPDC)

My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource
www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/

Alberta School Council Association
www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

Your child's teacher and/or principal are also a valuable source of information.

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