

Family Literacy

How do we define literacy?

Literacy for Life supports programs that focus on building reading, writing and numeracy skills.

What do we mean by family literacy?

By family literacy, we mean programs that include children and their parents/caregivers participating together in activities that emphasize intergenerational learning.

Common features of family literacy programs:

- Builds literacy skills for children and parents, and instruction for adults on how to foster literacy in their children.
- Includes all forms of literacy that families engage in together such as singing songs, making lists, telling stories, passing on skills and traditions.
- Assists families in gaining an understanding of what is expected of children once they enter school.
- For families headed by parents with low levels of literacy, provides support with specific reading strategies.
- Participants can provide input and feedback to shape the program.
- Creates supportive learning environments and opportunities for formation of family and social networks, and actively collaborating with other educational and social services.
- Generates positive attitudes to learning and offer developmentally appropriate experiences which promote language and literacy learning.
- Promotes awareness of print materials and encourage communication skills.
- Facilitators act as coaches for parents by providing techniques for book sharing, questioning, language facilitation, and providing positive feedback to children.
- Provides opportunities for parents to support each other, share their experiences and discuss ways to deal with challenges.
- Are culturally sensitive and meet the varying needs of participants, including transportation, access to nutritious food, and other supports.