



Secretariat for  
Catholic Education



## BILINGUALISM

Refer to page 1



## LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Online guidelines for the development of literacy and numeracy of learners who shall be attending grade 1 next scholastic year.



## LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Strategies on how to teach reading (refer to page 4), numeracy (page 5) and handwriting (page 4 and 6)

## PASTORAL CARE

Transmitting Christian Values  
through Literacy

Refer to page 7



# Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to this journey. As you are well aware, it is vital that your child finds learning a *rewarding experience*. This leaflet provides you with general information and resources to support your child in literacy and numeracy during the summer months in preparation for the next scholastic year.

## Rule 1 of assisting a child at home:

It is recommended that you only continue to work with your child while you are *both finding activities fun, positive and enjoyable*. If they aren't enjoyable, STOP, put the work away, try another time, keeping record of any problems you are encountering.

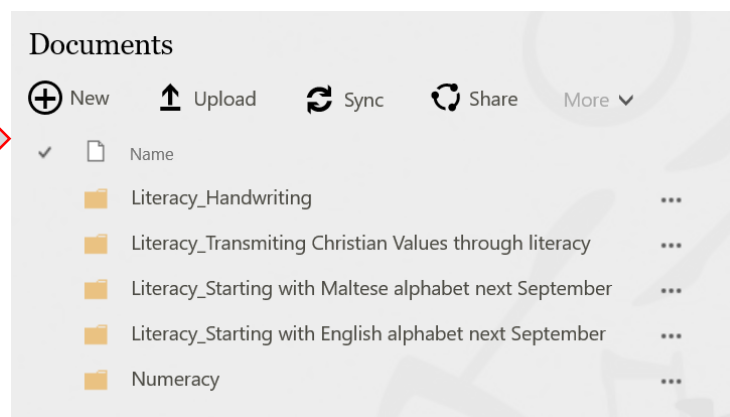
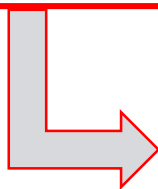
The sections in this leaflet will briefly introduce you to some aspects of literacy and numeracy. Activities should be enjoyable and you should remain calm if your children do not feel like it or don't get it the first time. Don't worry! This is normal.

For more information, go through the links in the following sections to get a general idea of some strategies used and then access the **most important link** found in the red box below. This link will take you to an online shared folder. The folders 'LITERACY' and 'PASTORAL CARE' shall be updated periodically, more or less every Monday for 6 to 8 consecutive weeks. The folders shall be updated between **the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**.

On the other hand the folders 'NUMERACY' and 'HANDWRITING' already have all the required material uploaded.

**CLICK ON THE MAIN LINK BELOW**

<https://diocesancuria.sharepoint.com/:f/s/SfCE/literacy/EnhOqNOedMZLiPLnIqMjMdoBBtNCKIN8QjIF5x9ILGWVAw>



# 1. Bilingualism

Knowledge of two or more languages provides an advantage in language learning and you are encouraged to expose your children to both languages. Most Church Schools start teaching the alphabet in English in September and then start Maltese in January so it is highly recommended that children listen and speak in both Maltese and English. Below, find some useful links to stories and songs in Maltese. Read as many books in Maltese as possible.

Relevant resources:

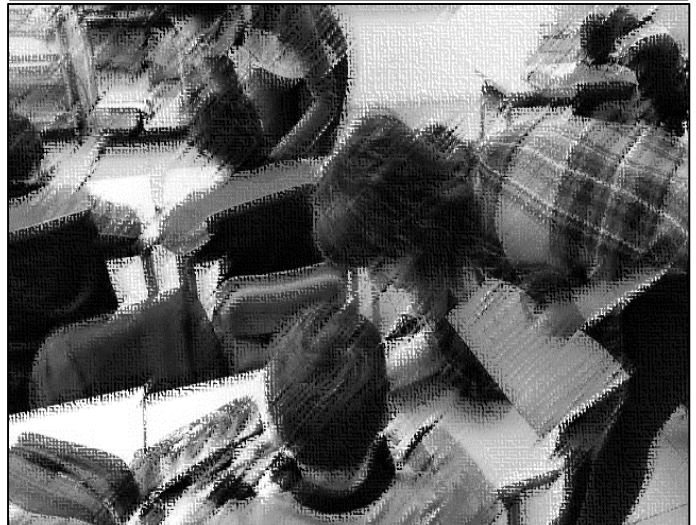
Some of the many songs and rhymes you can find on Youtube.

- **Bil-Malti għat-tfal:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLOvOSzzOVFOvBD99fjWBE3jCo9X8JAaq>

- **Rakkonti:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmn-LoQ05ZI&list=PLHlblmt9R3uwd-OzOV2m4fP966tdyUjkK>



# 2. Literacy

## What will your child learn?

In this short programme we want your children to learn:

- 10 sounds of the alphabet (m,a,s,d,t, i, n, p, g,o);
- how to blend/join simple sounds to work out the words that they make (words provided in shared folder);
- read regular cvc (consonant vowel consonant) words from set 1.1 made up with sounds m,a,s,d,t after you teach these sounds;
- read regular cvc words from set 1.2 made up of all the 10 sounds.

Through online videos, which your children can follow under your supervision, we try to teach how to write the letters in a fun way as they learn their sounds. The letters shall be matched to a picture of an animal or object (often referred to as mnemonic). This picture is a visual clue used to trigger the child's memory if they have trouble remembering the sounds. If your child cannot remember that particular sound (e.g. m), ask them what picture it reminds them of. If they say the sound (m) congratulate them. If they don't simply tell them the answer.

## When teaching your child we recommend you ....

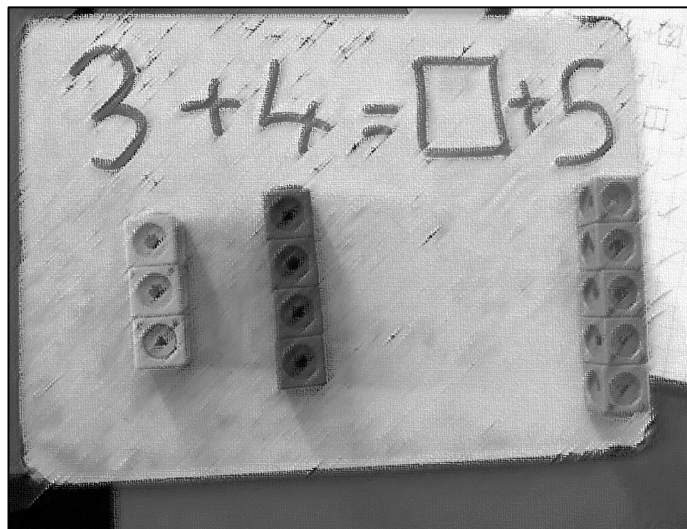
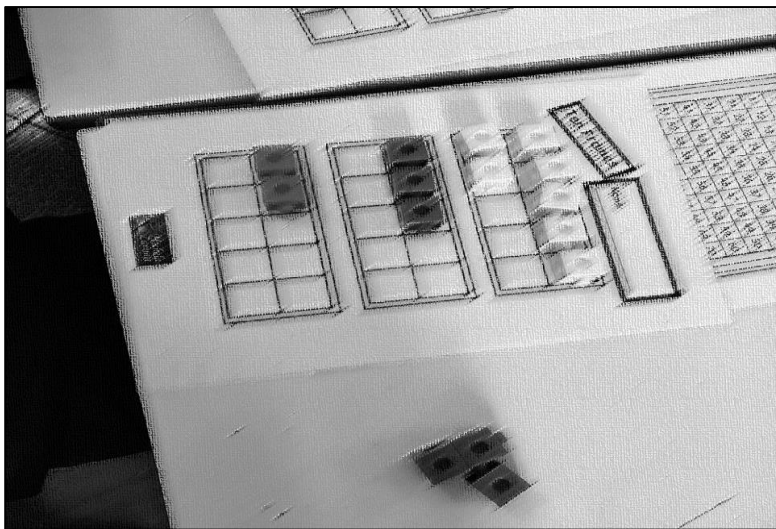
- **Don't** use letters names – (they can't be used for sound blending) – letter names will be taught to them later on, but not now.
- **Don't** use capital letters (by teaching the lower case at this time we prevent confusion and give a focus to their handwriting).
- **Don't** worry if initially your child writes poor letter shapes. Instead focus on ensuring they start writing using the HANDWRITING PROMPT provided for each letter;
- **Don't** bore the children with join the dots exercise for handwriting practice or ask children to trace letters but follow our recommendations in the handwriting section;
- **Don't** ask your child to write letters without saying the sounds (always get them to say the sound as they write so they see the connection)
- **Watch the following videos:**
  - i) How to say the sounds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>
  - ii) Understanding Phonics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc>
  - iii) Reading to your child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHMI70ZmxIQ>
  - iv) Sound Blending videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNyFikwNOTg>

# Numeracy

Basic number concepts and skills (numeracy) generally emerge before school starts. It is therefore important to be aware of, and promote the development of these competencies in young children and to know the best learning methods, as these skills are often predictive of children's future school achievement.

The Numeracy Team has prepared a number of resources and links for your perusal as follows. The content is divided into two sections – numbers to 5 and then numbers to 10. The intention is that you start working on the first section, thus solidifying the knowledge and competencies of your child for numbers to 5 and eventually extend to the next section including numbers to 10.

- **Speedy Maths Videos:** These videos are generally intended as practice for the children to help increase their fluency in their knowledge of numbers as well as different representations of numbers.
- **Printable Games:** These games were prepared by the Team and you are being provided with a variety for choice. You have to print and use these with your children (as per instructions) with the intention of practising a number of skills.
- **Links to Online Songs:** We know that children love singing and listening to songs containing information to numeracy concepts is a great way to learn.
- **Links to Online Animations:** These links give the children further explanations about different numbers thus enabling them to internalise a deeper understanding of each number.
- **Links to Online Games:** Again, children are very comfortable with technology and the Numeracy team is here suggesting a number of relevant games that are age appropriate and of course, linked to Numeracy concepts.
- **Hands-on Ideas:** These include ideas of how you can practice different numeracy concepts using everyday objects around the house.



# Handwriting

Good gross motor control provides the core stability and strength necessary for hand and finger muscles to do their work. Gross motor skills involve the postural control and movement of large muscle groups in the neck, shoulders, trunk, and legs. these skills allow us to perform tasks like sitting upright, standing, walking, running, and playing. Gross motor skill development typically precedes the development of fine motor skills.

**To write proficiently, students must have the postural control and core stability to sit upright, along with the shoulder strength and endurance to stabilize the hand and fingers.**



# Transmitting Christian values through literacy

This aim of this joint project between the Pastoral Care and Literacy & Numeracy Sections within SFCE aims to transmit Christian Values in order to enhance character building. It is going to be promoted through Literacy with families through schools. The folder (following the link in the **red box** on page 2) shall be updated every week with a short story or a video clip. The link leads to a short story or a video clip aimed to explore and discuss within the family a Christian value.



# Where to find us

- 1) Secretariat for Catholic Education Website  
<https://www.csm.edu.mt/>
- 2) Literacy and Numeracy Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/477322632611385>
- 3) Numeracy Youtube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSAvqmxGTUi3fvN19-QuYDw>
- 4) Literacy Youtube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGyajWbOdccFbaO8uZWtIgg>

