



# MURRAY BRIDGE SPECIAL SCHOOL

RESEARCH INTO ACTION

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AN ANXIOUS CHILD IS NOT A LEARNING CHILD

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## Murray Bridge Special School Newsletter



### **Dates To Place In Your Diaries**

#### Pupil Free Days

- Tuesday 06<sup>th</sup> April – MAPA training (Management of Actual or Potential Aggression)
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April – ABLES training (Abilities Based Learning and Education Support)

The school will be closed to students on these days while staffs participate in professional learning.

**\*\* Every effort is made to support families who have children attending State schools across different sites in Murray Bridge. Therefore the dates for our pupil free days and the school closure have been selected to best coordinate with the other State school sites across Murray Bridge, particularly Murray Bridge North Primary School.**

### **Reminder School Hours**

School commences for our learners from 8.30am onward and all learners must be picked up to go home by 3.10pm. School staffs are on duty from 8.30am and learning programs are scheduled for our learners from 8.30am onward. Families can negotiate with their child's Learning Facilitator if a later commencement time is required, however **all children need to be picked up by 3.10 at the latest to allow staff to move on to other scheduled meetings and professional development.**

### **Vehicle Users**

**\*\*Please remember the area under the veranda directly in front of the school is a No Parking Zone.** This space is for drop off and pick up only. Parking is available on the street or in the two areas used for car parking directly opposite the school. The space underneath the veranda at the front of the school must be kept clear for use by emergency vehicles such as ambulances.

# APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



## All types of School Card applications are now online.

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

- STEP 1** Visit [sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](https://sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)
- STEP 2** Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts.
- STEP 3** Complete all mandatory fields.  
*Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.*
- STEP 4** Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
- STEP 5** Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button.  
*Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.*

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



[sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard](https://sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard)



**Government  
of South Australia**  
Department for Education



**Link SA Dial-a-Ride**

The **Link SA Dial-a-Ride is a door-to-door service** operating Monday to Friday. A wheelchair accessible vehicle is available. Pre-book or Hail-a-Ride and travel anywhere in the township area of Murray Bridge, including east of the Murray River for a set fee.

Office hours: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Email: info@linksa.com.au

Website: www.linksa.com.au

Address: 131 Maurice Road MURRAY BRIDGE 5253

Phone: 1800 227 576 (toll free - residents of Murray Bridge) or (08) 8532 2633



**Before School, After School, Student Free Day or Vacation Care Programs**

We offer quality care with fun activities, friendships, games, arts, crafts, great food and special events all in a comfortable home like environment at competitive prices.

Murray Bridge Special School

Principal – Vicki Smith

March 2021

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We acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri people as the traditional owners of this land on which we meet and work. We respect and acknowledge their spiritual connection as the custodians of this land and that their cultural heritage beliefs are still important to the living people today. Nguldi Ardu (Welcome)



## **A Focus On Literacy – Developing the Love of Reading**

In this newsletter our focus is on sharing information about **developing the love of reading**. Our school priority is to improve our learner's literacy skills. Literacy is a broad term that acknowledges values and includes all forms of communications. This includes working toward developing an enjoyment of reading in all of our learners. All children regardless of their challenge need to be read aloud to at any opportunity. A parent, significant adult, or sibling can play a vital role in developing your child's literacy skills by taking the time to share a reading experience.

### **Why is it important to aspire for my child to become a reader?**

The ability to read is vital in enhancing wellbeing, inter-dependence, self-confidence, and motivation.

People read for many reasons:

- for pleasure and interest
- for work
- to obtain information that will help them make choices and decisions
- to understand directions (such as those on street signs and in recipe books)
- to learn about the world
- to keep in touch with family and friends

### **How will my child learn to read?**

Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, over time, to independent reading and to fluency.

### **The stages involved in learning to read are listed below.**

#### **1. The pre-reader and the beginning reader:**

- likes to look at books and likes to be read to
- likes to behave like a reader – for example, holds books and pretends to read them
- learns about words by looking at picture books and playing with blocks that have letters on them, magnetic letters, and so on
- learns about words from songs, rhymes, traffic signs, and logos on packages of food
- learns how text works – for example, where a story starts and finishes and which way the print proceeds
- begins to understand that his or her own thoughts can be put into print
- uses pictures and memory to tell and retell a story

#### **2. The emerging reader:**

- is ready to receive instructions about reading
- learns that text is a common way to tell a story or to convey information
- begins to match written words to spoken words and to perceive relationships between sounds and letters
- begins to experiment with reading, and is willing to try to say words out loud when reading simple texts
- finds the pictures helpful in understanding the text, and learns that the words convey a message consistent with the pictures

#### **3. The early reader:**

- develops more confidence and uses a variety of methods, such as relying on visual cues, to identify words in texts

- adapts his or her reading to different kinds of texts
- recognizes many words, knows a lot about reading, and is willing to try new texts

#### 4. The fluent reader:

- thinks of reading as a good thing and does it automatically
- uses a variety of methods to identify words and their meanings
- can read various kinds of texts and predict events in a story
- relates the meaning of books to his or her own experience and knowledge, and understands what is new

Can you find your child in any of the stages above? It takes time to pass through each of these stages, and your child will need plenty of attention and support as he or she moves through them.

#### **How can I help my child?**

As a parent and family, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Before long they will grow to love stories and books. Eventually they may want to read on their own. With the help of families, children can work toward learning to read and can practise reading until they can read for their own enjoyment.

Reading can be a family activity. Spending time with word games, stories, and books will help your child to:

- gather information and learn about the world
- learn how stories and books work – that they have beginnings, endings, characters, and themes
- build a rich vocabulary by reading and talking about new words
- learn how to listen and how to think
- learn the sounds of language and language patterns
- fall in love with books

It's important is that you are aware of your child's reading level so that you can choose books and activities that will help him or her improve. You may choose to use the tips below and work with your child's Learning Facilitator to improve your child's reading skills.

#### Tip 1 – Talk to Your Child

Oral language is the foundation for reading. Listening and speaking are a child's first introduction to language.

Talking and singing teach your child the sounds of language, making it easier for him or her to learn how to read.

#### Tip 2 – Make Reading Fun

Reading aloud can be a lot of fun, not just for parents but for all family members. Here are some ways to get the most out of reading to your young child:

- Read with drama and excitement! Use different voices for different characters in the story. Use your child's name instead of a character's name. Make puppets and use them to act out a story.
- Re-read your child's favourite stories as many times as your child wants to hear them, and choose books and authors that your child enjoys.
- Read stories that have repetitive parts and encourage your child to join in.
- Point to words as you read them. This will help your child make a connection between the words he or she hears you say and the words on the page.
- Read all kinds of material – stories, poems, information books, magazine and newspaper articles, and comics.
- Encourage relatives and friends to give your child books as gifts.

- Take your child to the library and look at interactive CD-ROMs and the Internet, as well as books.
  - Subscribe to a magazine for your child. He or she will love receiving mail!
- The more you enjoy the reading experience, the more your child will enjoy it.

### Tip 3 – Read Every Day

Children love routine, and reading is something that you and your child can look forward to every day. By taking the time to read with your child, you show him or her that reading is important and fun to do.

Try to read with your child as often as possible. It's the best thing you can do to help him or her learn at school! It also allows you to spend time together in an enjoyable way and to build a strong and healthy relationship.

- Start reading with your child as soon as possible.
- Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child.
- Choose a comfortable spot to read, where you can be close to your child. Make it your "reading place"! Set aside a special shelf in that area for your child's books.
- Choose a variety of books.
- Vary the length of reading time according to your child's age and interests. For young children, several short sessions may be better than one long session.
- Read slowly so that your child can form a mental picture of what is happening in the story.
- Praise your child for his or her ideas and participation!
- When you and your child are away from home, take along books and magazines for your child to read and listen to.
- Keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read. By reading stories that will interest your child but that are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of shared reading.

### Tip 4 – Set an Example

As a parent, you are your child's most important role model. If your child sees you reading, especially for pleasure or information, he or she will understand that reading is a worthwhile activity.

You can also share many daily reading activities with your child. Here are some ideas:

- Read recipes, food labels, schedules, maps, instructions, and brochures.
- Read traffic signs and signs in stores and restaurants.
- Look up information in cookbooks, manuals, phone books, atlases, and dictionaries.
- Read greeting cards, letters, and e-mail messages to and from relatives and friends.

### Tip 5 – Talk about Books

Talking about the books you read is just as important as reading them. Discussing a story or a book with your child helps your child understand it and connect it to his or her own experience of life. It also helps enrich your child's vocabulary with new words and phrases.

### Tip 6 – Listen to your child read

As your child learns to read, listen to him or her read aloud. Reading to you gives your child a chance to practise and to improve his or her reading skills.

As you listen to your child, remember that your reactions are important. Above all, listen without interrupting. Be enthusiastic and praise your child as often as you can. If possible, be specific with your praise so that your child knows what he or she is doing well.

- Show your child that you are enjoying the story by indicating interest and by asking questions.

- Give your child time to figure out tricky words, and show your child how he or she can learn from mistakes.
- Try to have your child read aloud to you at times when there will be no interruptions.
- Make sure that your child selects books that aren't too difficult. Don't worry if the books your child chooses are a little easier than the ones he or she reads at school.
- Encourage your child to "listen" to his or her own reading. Listening will help him or her hear mistakes and try to fix them.
- Take turns reading with your child, especially if he or she is just beginning to read, or try reading together.
- Talk about a story after your child has read it, to make sure that he or she understands it.

Don't forget to encourage your child to read on his or her own!

**Tip 7 – Show that you value your child's efforts**

Remember, your child needs to know that you value his or her efforts. Children learn to read over time, with lots of practice and support.

Here are some ways you can show your child that you have confidence in his or her ability to learn:

- Be aware of your child's reading level, but use that information in a positive way. Choose books and activities that are at the right level and that will help your child improve his or her reading skills.
- Be patient and flexible in your efforts to help your child.
- Show your child that you see him or her as a growing reader, and praise his or her efforts to learn.

**It is essential to have the ability to read as an aspirational goal for your child regardless of the challenges they live with. Every learning journey has a starting point. For each child the starting point will be different and the time it takes to achieve a goal will be different. What is important is we keep moving forward and stretch the learning!**

**Did you know missing one day of school a week adds up to almost three years by the time your child finishes school. Every day matters!**

**“When little people are overwhelmed by BIG emotions it’s our job to share our calm, NOT to join their chaos”** L.R Knosk Child Development Researcher U.S.A

Enjoy Every Precious Moment Together!



Warmest Regards Always,  
Vicki Smith  
Principal  
March 2021



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education