

Developing skills at home

Early learning in the home

Children develop enthusiasm for learning when they are encouraged and supported to explore, investigate and solve problems that are meaningful to their everyday life.

Learning through everyday experiences

Every time your child meets and talks with adults and children, goes shopping or visiting, unpacks the groceries, washes the car, or helps build a fence, they are learning.

This learning does not require expensive educational toys or special rooms set aside for activities. It simply requires time and opportunity so your child can explore, discover and experiment. It also requires you to take the time to talk and listen to your child and share ideas together.

Learning through play

Play is an important way for children to learn in their home. Through play, children develop a range of skills and understandings they need for ongoing learning.

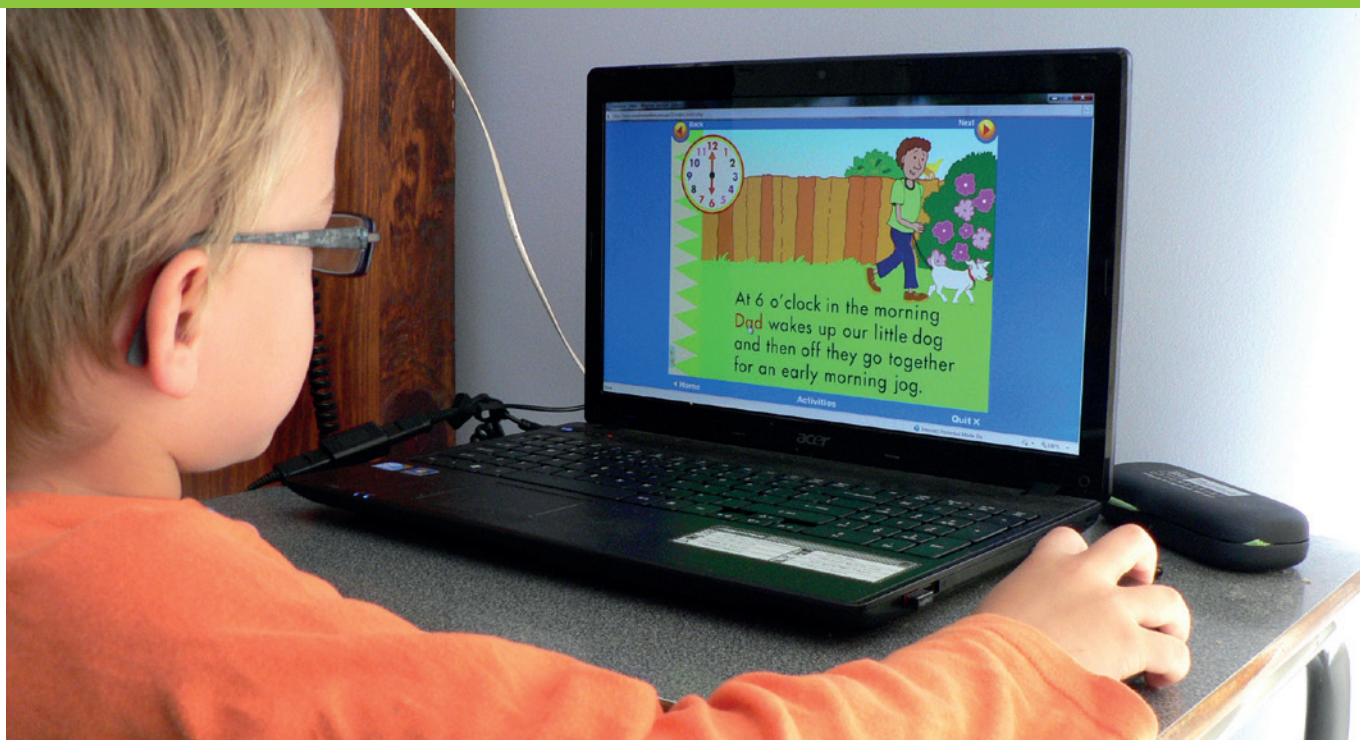
Play involves climbing, making cubbies, dressing up, pretending, dancing, writing, counting, doing puzzles, drawing, reading, imagining, building things, making choices, exploring materials, testing ideas, developing confidence and much more.

Supporting your child's learning

- Provide time for your child to play every day, indoors and outdoors.
- Involve your child in your everyday activities, such as cooking and cleaning.
- Help your child to think of new activities and games they can try.
- Provide your child with a range of materials to use creatively, such as cardboard boxes, balls, buckets, cushions, hula hoops and dress up clothes.
- Create spaces that are inviting and fun to play in.
- Encourage your child to make choices about which materials and types of play they will try each day.
- Join in the play. Follow your child's lead and ask interesting questions.
- Know when to step away from the play. It is as important as stepping in to the play.

A child's home is a familiar learning environment. Their learning depends on the range and quality of opportunities offered that develop their desire to learn about themselves and their world. It is enhanced when parents and others show interest, share ideas and support children as they try new activities and types of play.

Everyday experiences



Using the computer

Technology is an important part of our daily lives and the lives of children. Your child may already know how to use some technology devices, such as a television or telephone. Learning to use a computer is important for their ongoing learning.

As children explore using the computer and other technology, they learn about the ways they can use them in their daily lives. They learn to use a computer for a range of purposes, for example, in their play, to communicate with others, to create artworks, and to investigate and solve problems.

Supporting your child to use a computer

You can help your child learn to use a computer by encouraging them to use the mouse and keyboard, and talking with them about what these items can do.

Model how to use the computer

Sit with your child in front of the computer and tell them what you are doing as you use the computer.

- *If I press this power button, the computer turns on.*
- *I make the arrow move around the screen by moving the mouse.*
- *You can click on the button on the mouse to choose something on the computer screen.*
- *I'm going onto the internet now by clicking the big blue 'e' on the screen.*

Ways to encourage your child to explore using the computer

- Watch videos or digital stories on the computer, and invite your child to click the arrow to start the video or go to the next page of the story.
- Use the 'Paint' program on your computer, and encourage your child to control the mouse and create drawings or paintings.
- Choose games that involve moving the mouse and clicking on pictures.
- Create a folder of your child's favourite websites so they can quickly find a link to a favourite website.

Build basic skills

Encourage your child to:

- turn the computer on and off
- use the mouse to click, double click and drag
- find letters and numbers on the keyboard
- type some letters or numbers
- load CDs or DVDs
- use drawing tools
- use drop-down menus and click on symbols
- use the correct labels when talking about technology.

For further information

Visit www.qld.gov.au/kindy