

first5
forever

GRANDPARENTS AND FIRST 5 FOREVER



WHAT IS FIRST 5 FOREVER?

First 5 Forever is a family literacy program which aims to provide strong early literacy foundations for all Queensland children aged 0-5 years. Grandparents play an important role in their grandchild's future language and literacy development.

It's the little moments that matter, and whether you care for your grandchildren, full-time, part-time, see them on family visits or grandparent from a distance there are many things you can do together that could make a big difference.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

In the first 5 years of life a human brain develops at its fastest. Family life and early experiences are important for healthy brain growth. Simple things like talking, reading, singing and playing with children from birth have positive impacts that last a lifetime, and this has flow on benefits for the whole community.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: TALK!

Grandparents are our family's historians. The link between the past, present and future. Children learn language by being in conversations, so using back and forth conversations builds great foundational literacy skills.

Bring out old photos and talk about what was happening at the time it was taken. Children are curious and will ask lots of questions. Make up silly stories together about what might have "really" been happening or use statements beginning with "I wonder..." to encourage deep thinking and inviting responses.

Talk with your grandchild about their lives - the new things they've learned, the places they've been and the things they have seen. Encourage them to retell their experiences to you. If they present you with a lovely drawing ask them to tell you all about it.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: READ!

You don't have to read books word for word, from front to back. It's okay to skip pages, make up different words, or just talk about the pictures. It's about spending time together, growing a love of reading and books. Pointing to words as you go, helps build an understanding that the letters have meaning, and they work with the pictures to tell the story.

"But they only have one book they want to read!" It's OK! Reading favourite books over and over builds a solid understanding of the words used and their meanings. Read the favourite book and then try to introduce them to your childhood favourites or share a new story together. Visit your local library to explore the collection and select titles together.

"They don't like to sit still for a book!" Reading can be done anywhere at home or out and about. Environmental print is print that appears on signs, billboards, logos and labels. Sharing and talking about the print you find in your everyday life helps to develop your little one's reading skills.

PRO GRANDIE TIP!

If your grandchildren live a distance away, buy 2 copies of a picture book as a gift. One copy for you and the other for your grandchild. You can then share the story together over the phone or via skype.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: SING!

Classic nursery rhymes never go out of style for a reason. They're easy to learn, full of rhyme and repetition for little ones and most adults will be able to recall them from their childhood with a sense of nostalgia.

Changing the words of a favourite nursery rhyme is a fun way for your child to experiment with words.

For instance: Row, row, row your boat gently to the shore



If you see a lion, don't forget to roar



Songs help to build your grandchild's working memory. Try songs that add onto earlier parts like BINGO or counting songs like Five Little Ducks.

Turn on the radio or open your playlist to share your favourite music. Have some fun with a Pop Up Disco and dance around the house.

What about some puppet Karaoke! Grab some puppets and pop on some tunes or sing your favourite nursery rhymes together. Take turns entertaining each other or put on a show for family and friends.





WHAT YOU CAN DO: PLAY!

Play is a child's work! It might not look like they're learning while they're having fun, but they're developing the skills they'll need to learn, read and write when they are bigger.

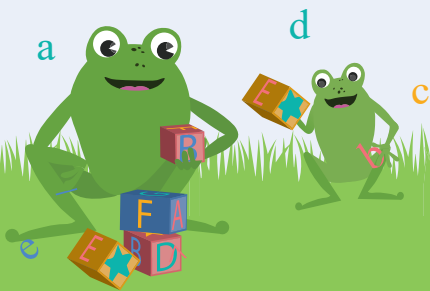
Encourage their imagination and join in on creative play. Keep a box of old clothes for dressing up – the box alone can become many exciting things in the creative mind of a child.

Introduce your grandkids to games you played when you were little.

Share activities you like to do. In the kitchen, cook up family recipes together. Following instructions, measuring and using descriptive words while cooking offer endless learning opportunities for your grandchild. Spending the day pottering in the garden can also be active and fun.

Children enjoy doing everyday activities and simple tasks. Sweeping, folding socks or helping to hang out clothes can be great fun for your grandchildren. Count and colour match as you work together.

Take your grandchild down to your local library to attend a free First 5 Forever session. It's another great activity you can share.





slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever

Visit www.isaac.qld.gov.au or call **1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227)** to find out more about our free First 5 Forever sessions across the region.

The First 5 Forever initiative is funded by the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with 72 local governments through a network of more than 320 local public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres.

