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Here are some ideas and activities for building and encouraging your child's literacy and numeracy skills:

sk your child to weigh and measure ingredients for your recipes both in the supermarket and at home.

anking and interest rates could be discussed; how budgets work at home and in the workplace.

reate a special reading place in your home with your child's favourite books within easy reach. Let your child help decorate it with patterns, shapes and designs.

emonstrate how to calculate the amount of ingredients when you want to change a recipe.

ncourage estimating skills, such as predicting how long a journey will take; how long it takes to set the table; how long it takes to walk the length of your street.

amily joke journals can be created by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes. Perhaps publish them in a word document.

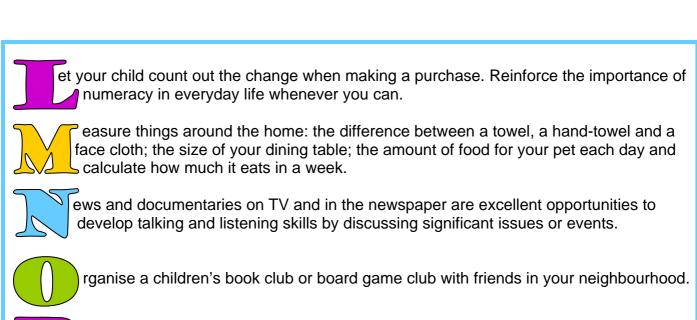
ive time to reading aloud to your child, no matter how proficient he or she may be.

ave a new word each hour for a week to develop your child's range of words. How about doing this in both your home language and English? Make a game of it.

nvolve your child in everyday conversations. Ask his or her opinion and reasons for answers.

oining the Premier's Reading Challenge really encourages reading, spelling and vocabulary skills.

eep teenagers of all ages reading and writing. Give them magazines and newspaper articles about things that interest them: sport, music, fashion, TV and computers.



lay games such as *Monopoly*, *Snakes and Ladders*, dominoes or cards. Using two dice instead of one when playing board games can help with addition and subtraction.

uestions that only require a "yes" or a "no" are boring. Ask ones that need a longer answer or require your child to give reasons for a decision.

emember that children learn by example. Think how you can set positive models of literacy and numeracy at home. Teach your child how to measure in your home language.

port offers opportunities for exploring literacy and numeracy. Calculate scores. Write a letter of encouragement to a sportsperson. Listen to sports programs and discuss the scores, angles of shots and probable results. Discuss camera shots and effects.

urn off the TV for a while and talk to your child in your home language about some of the issues in the TV programs or things that have recently happened in society.

se the computer as a research and learning tool. There are many sites to help your child practise his or her skills. Use it as a dictionary, a thesaurus or to check spelling.

iewing films and talking about any issues will greatly expand your child's thinking.

orking out how much time it takes to do things or go somewhere using a timetable will give your child opportunities to calculate.

-ercise your mind like a muscle! Let your child see you calculating things without a calculator.

ou are the key to improving your child's literacy and numeracy skills. Place a high priority on them in your home.

ip up to your local library with your child and borrow books, magazines and listening tapes.