

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Enquiries: G.D. SIBIYA (053-8396703)
Reference: L2.5.2.3.7
Date: 16 MARCH 2020

**TO: ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: DISTRICT OPERATIONS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
EDUCATOR UNIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**SUBJECT: TIPS TO PARENTS ON HOW TO USE THE GRADE R-9 WORKBOOKS TO
ASSIST LEARNERS AS WELL AS PARENTS' GUIDE TO READING AT
HOME**

Circular 15/2020 dated 16 March 2020 on the subject - *Directives to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in schools in the Northern Cape Province* bear reference.

The Northern Cape Department of Education has developed tips to parents on how to use the grade R-9 workbooks to assist learners as well as parents' guide to reading at home.

This initiative is aimed at assisting parents on ways to ensure that learners are kept active on curriculum based activities during the extra-long recess period.

Schools are urged to bring the content of these guidelines to the attention of all teachers and parents.

The effective usage of these resources will ensure that learners are provided with variety of activities to reinforce their language skills and mathematical concepts.

Yours sincerely

Dr MI ISHMAIL

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT



PARENTS GUIDE TO READING AT HOME

By developing a love for reading in young children, we will be giving them one of the greatest gifts of life, namely, life-long learning.

1. Reading is, without doubt, the most important linguistic skill that needs to be developed.
2. Reading serves as a building block upon which all other learning takes place.
3. Reading can also be fun.

Read it and experience it

FOUNDATION PHASE: GRADES R – 3

Reading at home should be fun and easy:

- Share the reading, take turns or see whether your child wants to read or be read to.
- Have a pile of reading materials available – library books (non-fiction and fiction), kids' cookery books, simple timetables, newspapers and magazines, catalogues and any other reading that supports your child's current interest.
- All children like to be read to, so keep reading to them. You can read in your home language or the language of learning and teaching of the school that your child attends.
- Read news from newspapers and magazines aloud.
- Encourage your child to retell favourite stories or parts of stories in their own words.
- Where possible, play card games (you can make the cards yourself) and board games together.
- Make some puppets – old socks, cardboard tubes, etc. that you and your child can use to act out the story you have read or dress up and make it into a play.

Talk about reading

- Talk about the story and the pictures, other stories you have read, and experiences you both had that are similar to those in the story.
- Sing songs, read poems and make up rhymes together – the funnier the better.
- Be a role model. Let your child see you enjoying reading and talk about what you are reading.
- Point out words on signs (road, billboards, information) shops and labels
- Encourage your child to read age-appropriate materials as well as TV guides in newspapers, street signs, food labels. Simple recipes are great – you get to eat what you have read about, too.
- Play word games like hangman, crossword puzzles, scrabble, etc.
- Sometimes you can be the listener, sometimes the reader and sometimes you can take turns. They might like to read to the cat, the dog, their teddy or a big brother
- All children like to be read to, so don't stop reading to them – no matter how old they are

Make reading a special time together

- Find quiet and relaxing place to read with your child
- Read for 10–15 minutes without interruption, away from the TV

- if you or your child start to feel stressed, take a break and read the rest of the story aloud yourself – keep it fun
- Make reading enjoyable, interesting and a special time
- Praise your child for making an effort

Take your child to the library

- To get access to more resources, visit the library together and help them choose books.
- Help your child choose books
- Find other books by the same author or on the same topic (or look for more information on the web – you might have to be the reader for this one).

INTERMEDIATE PHASE: GRADES 4 – 6

Read and talk together

- Get your child to tell you about what they are reading:
 - Who is their favourite character and why?
 - Is there anyone like that in your family?
 - What do they think is going to happen?
 - What have they learnt from their reading?
 - Does it remind them of any of their own experiences?
- Help your child with any words they don't understand – look them up together in the dictionary if necessary.
- Read recipes, instructions, manuals, maps, diagrams and signs. It will help your child to understand that words can be organised in different ways on a page, depending on the purpose.
- Read marketing pamphlets – your child could compare costs, make their own 'advertisements' by cutting up pamphlets or come up with clever sentences for a product they like.

Read with others

- If your child has chosen something to read that is too hard at that moment, take turns and read it together.
- Reading to younger brothers, sisters or grandparents will give your child an opportunity to practise reading out aloud and encourage other family members to read to and with your child (listening to others reading helps them with their reading).
- Find out information together from different sources, for example, manuals, dictionaries, the Internet, magazines, television guides, atlases, family tree information.
- Play games that involve reading in a fun way.
- Choose games that everyone wants to play – make them challenging.

Take your child to the library

- Help your child to choose a variety of books they want to read.
- Help them look for books about topics they are learning about at school.
- Get your child to choose a book that you can read to them

- Encourage your child to retell favourite stories or parts of stories in their own words.

Be a reader yourself

- Talk about what you are reading and why you are enjoying it or what is challenging about it. Read a book to your child that they might find difficult but want to read, and talk about it as you read. Use your home language whenever you can – it can help your child's learning
- Read the same book or magazine as your child. You can then share your ideas about what you have read. You could talk about why the authors made the choices they did when writing the story.

Keep them interested

- Help your child identify an author, character or series of books they particularly like and find more in the series or by the author.
- Think about subscribing to a magazine on your child's special interest, e.g. animals, or check out the magazines at the library, or on the Internet.
- Go to your local library to choose books together. These might be books your child can read easily on their own. They might be books your child wants to read but are a bit hard - you can help by reading a page to them, then helping them read the next one.
- Play card and board games together – the more challenging the better.

SENIOR PHASE: GRADES 7 – 9

Make reading fun

- Play card and board games and do complicated puzzles.
- Help your child to follow a recipe and cook for the family.
- Encourage your child to read and follow instructions for playing a game, making or using a piece of equipment, or completing a competition entry form.
- Remember their reading doesn't have to be a book – it could be a magazine, comic, newspaper or something from the Internet.

Talk about it

- Ask your child to talk about parts of a story they liked and why.
- Talk about the key facts, characters, plot, setting, theme and author's purpose.
- Have them retell the main ideas or describe characters, events or facts they were interested in.
- Ask them to show you where the story supports their thinking.
- Be a role model. Show you read for a variety of reasons; e.g. to compare products advertised in brochures, to be informed on current issues, to find a phone number or a load shedding schedule, to relax, etc.
- Try reading the same book as your child so you can talk about it together.
- Talk about the TV show you are watching. What were the main ideas? Talk about the order events happen in – practising this skill is important as children can find this difficult to learn. What did they like/dislike and why?

Keep them interested

- Just because your child can read doesn't mean that they don't enjoy listening to someone else reading. It could be a non-fiction book on a topic they like, a magazine, a newspaper, a short story or a longer book read in instalments. It could also be a more difficult book/article that your child needs your help to read and understand.
- You could also listen to audio stories together – you can borrow these from the library or download from the Internet.
- Encourage your child to read the lyrics to their favourite songs. Talk about why the composer wrote the song. What were they trying to say? Search the Internet for more information.

Read together

- Read your child a children's novel that they are interested in – try one or two chapters each day.
- Get your child to listen to younger siblings doing their reading (this is a good chance for them to practise some of their own reading skills).
- You can remind them about pausing while the younger child thinks about a word they don't know, giving them help to work out the word, and giving them praise for their reading, too.
- Have books, magazines, comics, newspapers and other information available for everyone in your family to read on topics that interest your child – e.g. fashion.
- Listen together to CDs of your child's favourite stories, books and songs.

The importance of reading simply cannot be overstated. Children who are groomed into readers are more likely to succeed in school and in life. Reading assists children in all school subjects and more important, it is the key to lifelong learning.

On the other hand children, who cannot read well, cannot learn and must be supported by their parents and teachers to overcome the reading barriers. Research has shown that children who read do better in school, and stay in school longer.

Therefore, it is important that parents should read with their children from a very young age for at least twenty minutes every day, until they get in high school.

TIPS TO PARENTS ON HOW TO USE THE GRADE R-9 WORKBOOK TO ASSIST LEARNERS

As parents, you have a central role to play in the development of your child. The Rainbow workbooks are available and parents can use them to enrich learners at home during the extra-long recess period.

Schools have therefore been urged to give learners work they can do at home. Workbooks and worksheets will be given to learners to be used under the supervision of parents/guardians.

Workbooks are available in the child's Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT), learners' grade, different subjects and the terms of the year.

Children enjoy learning and practicing in their workbooks. They enjoy the books because they can use what they learn in their day-to-day lives.

The workbook activities can be integrated with all subjects across all grades R-9.

The following guide provides ways on how to navigate the workbook.

1. Pictures plays an important function in helping with predictions and orienting learners to the text.



2. The pages are clearly marked and gives excellent guidelines on how to use the workbooks.



3. There are speaking and discussion icons: When parents see this icon they can discuss a picture or an activity with the learners.

4. This is followed by a 'Let's read' icon:

Let's read icons



This will indicate whether the learners should read as an individual, in pairs or as a group.

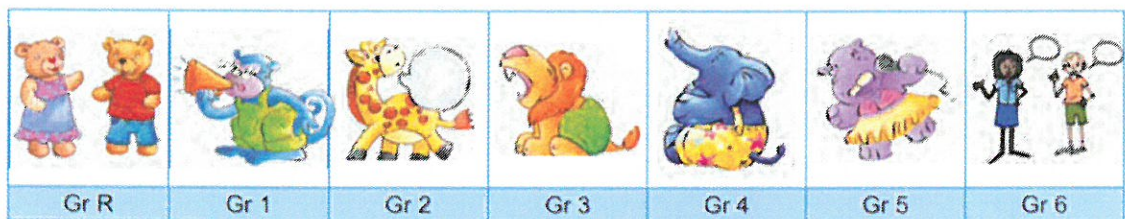
5. The 'Let's write' indicates when a learner should write an activity.

Let's write icons



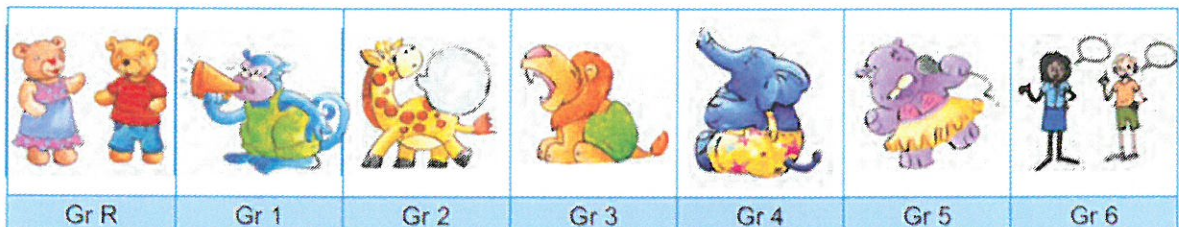
6. The 'Lets speak' icon indicates that learners should speak about what they see in the picture.

Let's speak icons



7. The following icon means that learners should play the different characters in the stories.

Role play



8. The next icons says that learners should do a wide variety of stimulating activities.

Let's do icon



The Northern Cape Department of Education therefore urge all parents to use the above guide to constructively engage with learners at home and ensure that they are kept active on curriculum based initiatives during this extra-long recess period.