

# Emergent Literacy

## – reading and writing

### 7. DO SHARED READING ACTIVITIES

- Read Big Books with your learners. (See the Grade R Resource Kit 2015.)
- Make your own Big Books. Enlarge other texts (you can either write them out or enlarge them with a photocopying machine).
- Point to the words in a Big Book story as you read them.
- Draw learners' attention to the following print conventions:
  - The distinction between pictures and print.
  - Reading from left to right and top to bottom (reading direction).
  - Book concepts such as the cover, title and inside story pages.
- Read favourite stories over and over again and encourage learners to read the bits they are familiar with along with you.
- Make sentence strips for your learners to read. These are short, repetitive sentences that include high frequency (common) words that are repeated over and over.

### 8. GIVE LEARNERS INTEGRATED, CONTENT-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES

- Provide opportunities for learners to investigate topics that are of interest to them (in this Grade R Resource Kit 2015 there are 20 learner-friendly themes).
- The objective is for learners to use oral language, reading and writing to learn about their world.
- Read topic-related information books.
- Provide topic-related books for learners to look at on their own.
- Use emergent writing to record observations and information.
- Provide opportunities for dramatic play in the fantasy corner. This will help your learners express what they have learned.

Adapted from an article entitled 'The Essentials of Early Literacy Instruction' by Kathleen A. Roskos, James F. Christie, and Donald J. Richgels (Copyright © 2003 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children)

## TEACHING THE ALPHABET AND PHONICS

### A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE

The letters of the alphabet look like meaningless signs or marks to young learners. Making sense of these 26 symbols can be quite overwhelming. The fact that each letter also has a unique sound (or sounds) is an added challenge for the learner. Later on, learning that letters also combine to make new sounds, compounds an already difficult learning situation. Learning letter-sound relationships is not easy.

### A SOLUTION

Using 'mnemonics' can help learners identify letter symbols and remember the letter's sound. Simply put, a mnemonic is a device that helps us remember something – it can be a picture, a simple story or both. The picture and story help to reinforce the symbol by making a meaningful visual-auditory association.