

Question on Notice

No. 1468

Asked on 8 October 2009

Ms Farmer asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide more information on how his department is assisting parents who would like to enhance their child's literacy and numeracy skills?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the Bligh Government's initiatives to assist parents enhance their children's literacy and numeracy skills.

Parents are a key partner in the learning process of every child in Queensland. As literacy and numeracy are essential skills that children need to succeed in their everyday lives.

The Department of Education and Training's website has a specific section for parents and carers that provides answers to the most frequently asked questions and information about how they can actively contribute to their child's learning. This information is available online at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/>.

In particular, a suite of new resources has been developed to provide advice to parents and carers about how they can support the development of children's literacy and numeracy skills. This information is available online at <http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/>.

These new materials include fact and activity sheets and video clips of parents and carers sharing some of the tips they use to help their own children with literacy and numeracy skills every day.

Similar resources have also been developed to kick start Prep numeracy concepts.

The video clips of parents talking about how they help their own children with literacy and numeracy in daily life are available in spoken English, with additional languages featured including Kriol (Australian Creole language), Kalkadoon (Mt Isa Aboriginal language), Chinese Mandarin, Vietnamese, Sudanese Arabic, Swahili, Tongan, Samoan, Bosnian, Greek and Turkish.

In conjunction with the recent and very successful Summer Schools for students initiative, a series of literacy and numeracy resources offering tips and strategies for parents on teaching literacy and numeracy at home have also been published. This information is available online at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/summerschools/support.html>.

This series of fact sheets and a DVD provide practical ways parents can use everyday situations for teaching reading, writing and calculating with numbers.

The Department is also leading an innovative project called BEAM: Learning for Everyday Life which teaches carers about how they can support their foster child's learning. This BEAM project is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and is a partnership with Foster Care Queensland and the Department of Child Safety.

The course allows carers to learn practical ways to improve children's literacy and numeracy as they go about everyday life.

Schools also play a crucial role in supporting parents to develop literacy and numeracy skills. For example, the Schools of Distance Education produce Home Tutor Guides which are used by parents to support the development of these skills.

Schools also develop resources and programs that foster productive relationships with parents in supporting literacy and numeracy development.

Another example is the award winning program at Kuranda District State College entitled

Families as First Teachers which has had a profound impact on engaging Indigenous families in their children's early learning and preparation for school.