



Literacy in Action

**Engaging Activities for Building Skills from
Kindergarten to Grade 8**





Literacy Activities

According to Age Groups

Group 1

Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1 (Ages 4–7)

Group 2

Grade 2 to 3 (Ages 7–8)

Group 3

Grade 4 to Grade 6 (Ages 9–11)

Group 4

Grade 7 to Grade 8 (Ages 12–13)

Group 1

Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1 (Ages 4–7)

Literacy-and-beyond toolkit for Group 1 (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 1, Ages 4–7), covering core subject areas - Math, Language, Science & Tech, Social Studies, Arts, and Health & Physical Development.

Math

Literacy Focus:

Introduce math language like counting, shapes, spatial concepts, and problem-solving; build on emergent numeracy skills

Parent Focus:

Turn everyday moments into “math moments.” Use math talk, compare, count, sort, and measure through playful discovery

Activities:

- **Count & Clean Up:** Count toy types during cleanup - "3 red cars, 4 blue blocks"
- **Sock Sorting:** Sort laundry by color, size, or patterns, introduces classification.
- **Kitchen Math:** Measure ingredients using cups and spoons during baking - introduce volume & comparison.
- **Shape Walk:** Go on a shape hunt; identify circles, squares, triangles on signs, windows.
- **Pattern Bracelets:** Use beads or cereal to create ABAB patterns.
- **Stairs Counting:** Count steps going up/down.
- **Treasure Comparison:** Gather sticks or stones outside, comparing length, weight, or number

Sourced Used:

https://www.reddit.com/r/math/comments/168ahrw/what_are_good_and_fun_ways_to_stimulate_maths_in/?utm

Language (Emergent Literacy)

Literacy Focus:

Print motivation, vocabulary, phonological awareness, narrative skill

Parent Focus:

Encourage storytelling, letter-play, shared reading, and making print feel meaningful - point out words, environmental print, everyday labels.



Language (Emergent Literacy) cont.

Activities:

- Print Label Tour: Label household items (e.g. “door,” “table”); ask child to read them.
- Sound Safari: Find items starting with a target sound during outings.
- Storytelling Rope: Use rope with beads labeled “beginning/middle/end” to retell stories.
- Chop & Clap Syllables: Clap or break words into syllables (“ap-ple”, “but-ter-fly”).
- Letter Crafts: Build letters with playdough or sticks and say sounds aloud.
- Box Book Creation: Make simple homemade books with drawings and dictated labels.
- Rhyme Time Games: Spot rhyming words using songs or books like Hop on Pop

Sourced Used:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergent_literacies?utm

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/creativity-and-critical-thinking/learning-skills-for-kids/lets-investigate.html?utm>

Science & Technology

Literacy Focus:

Observation, inquiry language, vocabulary for describing phenomena.

Parent Focus:

Embrace curiosity - ask open questions, explore, and co-discover; normalize mistakes and exploration.

Activities:

- Sink or Float: Test objects in water and explain results.
- Lava Lamp DIY: Mix oil, water, food coloring + Alka-Seltzer to observe density.
- Skittles Rainbow: Arrange candies, add warm water—watch color diffusion.
- Cloud Jar: Create a “rainstorm” in a jar with hot water and ice.
- Nature Collection Study: Collect leaves or stones, sort and discuss features.
- Science Songs: Sing about plants, weather, senses using PBS Kids songs.
- Ramps & Races: Build simple ramps and race cars or balls to explore motion/force.

Sourced Used:

<https://kidskonnnect.com/articles/science-activities-for-kids/?utm>

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/learn-grow/age-4/science?utm>



Social Studies

Literacy Focus:

Vocabulary for people, places, families, roles; narrative skills for stories/history.

Parent Focus:

Build awareness of community and identity; use books and conversations to introduce social concepts.

Activities:

- **Family Roles Chart:** Draw family with roles labeled ("Mom cooks, Dad drives").
- **Cultural Story Sharing:** Read folk tales or traditions from your or community's culture.
- **Map Your Route:** Draw simple map showing home, school, park - introduces spatial literacy.
- **Dress-Up Role Play:** Pretend to be postman, doctor, etc., and create scenarios.
- **Global Greetings:** Learn "hello" in different languages and practice them together.
- **Classroom Timeline:** Create visual timeline of a day; breakfast, play, nap, etc.
- **Traditions Booklet:** Make a mini-book about family celebrations with pictures and captions.

Arts

Literacy Focus:

Vocabulary of colours, shapes, emotions; narrative and descriptive skills.

Parent Focus:

Support creativity by describing creations and encourage expression via art and stories.

Activities:

- **Emotion Faces Drawing:** Draw different emotions and label them.
- **Story Collage:** Create a picture collage and tell a story about it.
- **Shape Sculpture:** Use clay or recycled materials to build shapes.
- **Color Mixing Lab:** Mix paints to create new colors and name them.
- **Musical Storytelling:** Illustrate a song's lyrics with drawing.
- **Playdough Labeling:** Shape and label letters or objects using playdough.
- **Nature Art Walk:** Collect natural items and glue them into story scenes.



Health & Physical

Literacy Focus:

Body-part vocabulary; sequential instructions; health & safety language.

Parent Focus:

Promote physical confidence; reinforce healthy habits; use themed language during movement.

Activities:

- Simon Says: With body-part commands: "Simon says touch your toes."
- Obstacle Course: Set up a simple course, explain steps sequentially.
- Healthy Plate Game: Sort toy foods into groups: fruits, grains, proteins.
- Yoga Storytime: Do simple yoga poses and narrate the story movement.
- Jump & Count: Count jumps or hops, encouraging tally and number talk.
- Germ Tag: Tag game where the "germ" tags and everyone covers cough/mask.
- Handwashing Rhyme: Sing a 20-second song while rubbing hands

Why this Works

- Built on play-based learning, which deeply supports literacy and cognitive development <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-science-learning?utm>
- Supports emergent literacy (print motivation, vocabulary, phonological awareness) alongside skills in other domains.
- Encourages parent involvement as co-learners through conversation, guidance, and shared exploration <https://time.com/4786605/how-to-get-kids-excited-about-math/?utm>



Group 2

Grade 2 to 3 (Ages 7–8)

Toolkit for Group 2 (Grade 2 to 3, Ages 7–8), spanning across subjects - Math, Language & Literacy, Science & Technology, Social Studies, Arts, and Health & Physical. Each section highlights the Literacy Focus, Parent Focus, and offers 5 hands-on activities.

Math

Literacy Focus:

Develop mathematical vocabulary (sum, difference, multiply, fraction, balance), word problem strategies, and reasoning language.

Parent Focus:

Make math engaging through real-world contexts; ask open-ended questions and encourage explaining thinking.

Activities:

- **Math Mystery:** Solve multi-step puzzles using counting/clues
[https://stemsports.com/20-easy-stem-activities-for-second-grade-students-k-2-stem-activities/?utm](https://stemsports.com/20-easy-stem-activities-for-second-grade-students-k-2-stem-activities/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=stem-activities)
- **Math Walk:** Go on a scavenger walk—count windows, steps, angles—then discuss findings [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Math_walk?utm_source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Math_walk?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=math-walk)
- **Perler Bead Arrays:** Use bead patterns as visual models for multiplication/fractions
[https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/?utm](https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=stem-crafts)
- **Cook & Measure:** Follow recipes, doubling or halving ingredients that ties into fractions.
- **Interactive Online Games:** Play grade-appropriate games on ABCya, Mathletics, or Greg Tang's site
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathletics_%28educational_software%29?utm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathletics_%28educational_software%29?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=mathletics)

Language & Literacy

Literacy Focus:

Reading fluency with expression, comprehension (main idea, sequence, inference), grammar (nouns, verbs, adjectives), and beginning writing (poems, expository).

Parent Focus:

Encourage confident, expressive reading; ask deeper questions; support writing of varied text types.



Language & Literacy cont.

Activities:

- Comprehension Cootie Catcher: Use paper fortune teller with reading prompts <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/browse?search=stem+reading+activities+3rd+grade&utm>
- Journal Writing: Daily entries, book reflections, or poetry and support grammar development.
- Sight Word Bingo & Rhyming Games: Reinforces vocabulary and phonological awareness.
- Story Map & Venn Diagram: Compare characters/books using graphic organizers.
- Read-Aloud to Pets or Toys: Boosts confidence and expression.

Science & Technology

Literacy Focus:

Scientific language (predict, hypothesis, observe, experiment) and technical vocabulary.

Parent Focus:

Cultivate inquiry, experimentation, and expression—use open questions and lab reflections.

Activities:

- Rain Cloud in a Jar experiment <https://stemsports.com/20-easy-stem-activities-for-second-grade-students-k-2-stem-activities/?utm>
- Ice Cream in a Bag: Learn about states of matter.
- Bug & Ocean Jar: Mini-ecosystem investigations <https://hessunacademy.com/stem-activities-for-3rd-graders/?utm>
- STEM Challenges: Build bridges/marbles mazes from index cards or straws <https://www.weareteachers.com/third-grade-stem-challenges/?utm>
- PhET Simulations: Explore interactive physics/science activities online https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PhET_Interactive_Simulations?utm

Social Studies

Literacy Focus:

Vocabulary around community, geography, history, timelines, and narrative writing.

Parent Focus:

Stimulate discussion about roles, history, and diversity through stories and conversation.



Social Studies cont.

Activities:

- **Wacky Facts WebQuest:** Explore presidents or historical figures via lightweight research sheets <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/browse/hands-on-activities/activities/elementary/2nd-grade/science/computer-science-technology/free>
- **Local Map Creation:** Draw simple maps (home, school, park); label landmarks.
- **Cultural Storytelling:** Read and narrate folk tales from different cultures.
- **Photo Interview:** Walk through neighbourhood, take photos, discuss what they represent.
- **Timeline Posters:** Create visual timelines of a familiar story or morning-to-night routine.

Arts

Literacy Focus:

Descriptive language, storytelling through visuals, art vocabulary.

Parent Focus:

Encourage expression, storytelling, and use of descriptive language alongside art.

Activities:

- **Fairytale STEAM:** Build fairy-tale-related structures (e.g. Goldilocks' bed) <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/browse?search=steam+activities+for+grade+3&utm>
- **Invisible Ink & Secret Messages:** Combine writing with science (lemon juice reveals) <https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/?utm>
- **Build Suspension Bridge or Zip-line Toy:** Describe their design, materials, and purpose <https://www.parents.com/kids/education/math-and-science/5-fun-stem-crafts-for-kids/?utm>
- **Digital Pixel Art:** Use online platforms for pixel art, then describe creations.
- **Musical Puppet Show:** Create simple puppets and retell a story with movement and dialogue

Health & Physical

Literacy Focus:

Body part labels, healthy habits terminology, sequential and safety language.



Health & Physical cont.

Parent Focus:

Encourage active play, reinforce health vocabulary, discuss routines for nutrition, hygiene, and movement.

Activities:

- **Healthy Plate Creation:** Use printables or digital slides to categorize food groups.
- **Obstacle Course with Instructions:** Set up and narrate step-by-step ("Jump, crawl, spin!").
- **Germ Tag:** Play tag where tagged players perform hygiene tasks.
- **Yoga Storybook:** Combine storytime with themed yoga poses.
- **Fitness Counting:** Record and graph jumping jacks or steps; describe daily activity.

Why this Works

- **Integrated Literacy:** Children use subject-specific language across contexts, supporting fluency, comprehension, and expressive skills.
- **Hands-On & Playful:** Active participation strengthens motivation and retention.
- **Digital & Offline Balance:** Combines screen-based simulations (PhET, ABCya, Mathletics) with tactile projects



Group 3

Grade 4 to Grade 6 (Ages 9–11)

Comprehensive, cross-curricular toolkit for **Group 3 (Grades 4–6, Ages 9–11)**, spanning Math, Language & Literacy, Science & Technology, Social Studies, Arts, and Health & Physical Education. Each section includes the Literacy Focus, Parent Focus, and five engaging activities

Math

Literacy Focus:

Understanding math vocabulary (e.g., "product," "estimate," "scale"), interpreting word problems, and using written explanations to describe solution strategies.

Parent Focus:

Encourage children to read and write about math by explaining their reasoning verbally or in notebooks to build fluency and clarity.

Activities:

- **Budget Mall:** Give your child a mock budget and catalog; they choose items and write a receipt with totals and change.
- **Scale Drawings:** Draw a map of your room using a scale (1 cm = 1 ft), labeling measurements and explaining scale choice.
- **Estimation Jar:** Guess the number of objects in a jar, count them, and write a short reflection on the accuracy of the estimate.
- **Math Journaling:** After solving a problem, they write "What did I do? What worked?" to reinforce self-explanation.
- **Graph It:** Collect data (e.g., daily temperature), create graphs, and narrate findings: "On July 1, it was warmer because..."

Language & Literacy

Literacy Focus:

Critical thinking, identifying themes/author's purpose, structuring paragraphs in responses and writing.

Parent Focus:

Have thoughtful discussions, model inference-making ("I think the character did that because..."), and encourage written reflections using sentence stems



Language & Literacy cont.

Activities:

- **Literature Circles at Home:** Each reads the same book, then discuss favorite parts, confusing plot twists, and lessons learned.
- **Character Diaries:** Write diary entries from a character's point of view, focusing on feelings and motivations.
- **Comparative Book Reviews:** Choose two books, write a review comparing plot, style, and enjoyment level.
- **"Why?" Journals:** Keep a journal of questions like "Why did the hero leave home?" and try to answer using text clues.
- **Podcast Listening & Writing Response:** Listen to Bust or Trust or similar podcasts and write a summary, fact/opinion distinction, and conclusion
<https://www.vox.com/life/391437/kids-podcast-top-2024-reading-literacy?utm>

Science & Technology

Literacy Focus:

Use of scientific terminology, hypothesis writing, and reporting observations in structured formats.

Parent Focus:

Encourage the use of technical vocabulary and build reflection through lab notebooks and sharing results.

Activities:

- **Literacy + STEM "How To Catch a ____":** Read a themed STEM book (e.g., How to Catch a Dragon), then design a trap and write instructions with scientific explanations https://havingfunfirst.com/2022/01/stem-and-reading-comprehension.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- **Crystal Geode Journal:** Create a crystal geode and journal each step which includes materials, predictions, observations using scientific terms.
- **Egg Drop Engineering Report:** Design a container for an egg drop, then write a report on design, testing, and outcomes.
- **Build a Suspension Bridge:** Construct a simple bridge, measure, and write reflections on why design worked or failed.
- **STEM Challenges Logbook:** Complete mini-STEM tasks (e.g., domino chain, tower building), document materials, steps, and thinking



Social Studies

Literacy Focus:

Narrative writing, constructing timelines, using descriptive vocabulary, and interpreting informational texts.

Parent Focus:

Read informational texts together and discuss cause and effect, bias, and perspective.

Activities:

- **Local History Interview:** Interview a grandparent/neighbor about a local event, write a transcript and summary.
- **News Collage & Discussion:** Select a current news article, glue in notebook, highlight main ideas, and add personal response.
- **Historical Diary:** Choose a historical period and write a day-in-the-life fictional diary entry.
- **Cultural Recipe Report:** Make a cultural dish and write a process description with history and personal reflection.
- **Map Annotation:** Draw a map (real or fictional), label places, and write descriptive paragraphs explaining significance.

Arts

Literacy Focus:

Using art vocabulary, descriptive writing about art, and creating stories from visuals.

Parent Focus:

Encourage written expression - describing artworks, imagining characters, and writing stories tied to creations.

Activities:

- **Art Critique Journals:** Visit a gallery or online collection; write short critiques with descriptive language.
- **Comic Script Writing:** Plan a 6-panel comic with dialogue, captions, and character thoughts, then illustrate it.
- **Story Mix Art:** Combine random images (photos or magazine), create a story and illustrate.
- **Album Art Redesign:** Pick a favorite song/book, redesign its cover or album art, adding a written artist statement.
- **Poetry & Portrait Pairing:** Write a poem and create a portrait to go alongside, then share rationale



Health & Physical Education

Literacy Focus:

Sequencing instructions, descriptive physical vocabulary, and reflective journaling.

Parent Focus:

Use movement and health discussions to reinforce language skills and personal reflection.

Activities:

- **Fitness Video Script:** Plan and write a script for a workout video (warm-up, exercise names, durations).
- **Healthy Habit Tracker & Reflection:** Track sleep, meals, exercise; write weekly reflections on well-being.
- **Sports Play-by-Play:** Attend or watch a sports game and narrate plays in a journal, using sports terminology.
- **Yoga Story Creation:** Select yoga poses and write a story where the child moves through each pose as part of a narrative.
- **First-Aid Guidebook:** Make a simple first-aid manual with steps and illustrations (e.g., for cuts or sprains).

Why this Works

- Fuses literacy with critical thinking, self-reflection, and structured writing across subjects.
- Promotes higher-order skills like analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.
- Grounded in evidence-based practices like questioning, self-explanation, and writing-to-learn.
- Makes learning multi-modal and engaging, fostering academic and expressive growth.



Group 4

Grade 7 to Grade 8 (Ages 12–13)

Cross-curricular toolkit for **Group 4 (Grade 7–8, Ages 12–13)**, with unique activities across Math, Language & Literacy, Science & Technology, Social Studies, Arts, and Health & Physical Education - all different from earlier groups. Each section includes the Literacy Focus, Parent Focus, and 5–7 creative, research-backed activities

Math

Literacy Focus:

understanding and using math-specific vocabulary (e.g., "ratio", "rate", "variable") while reading problem scenarios and writing clear justifications for solutions.

Parent Focus:

Encourage analysis and explanation ; ask them to read and summarize problem steps aloud, then write or discuss their reasoning in detail.

Activities:

- **Consumer Math Project:** Calculate budgeting scenarios, taxes or discounts, then write a structured analysis of choices; why they chose certain options.
- **Scale Factor Blueprint:** Measure a room, create a scaled diagram (e.g., 1 cm = 1 ft), annotate with formulas and written rationale.
- **Math-to-Poetry RAFT:** Write a creative piece in the voice of a math concept (e.g., as Pi describing its digits) using a RAFT format (Role, Audience, Format, Topic)
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/browse/free?search=cross+curricular+middle+school&utm>
- **Data-Driven Report:** Collect monthly weather or health data, chart it, then summarize findings in a multi-paragraph report.
- **Exploratory Journal Prompts:** Quick daily writing on math problems: "What if?" scenarios to stimulate higher-level thinking.

Language & Literacy

Literacy Focus:

Critical reading strategies - theme detection, character analysis, argument evaluation; combined with structured writing (essays, response pieces).

Parent Focus:

Use questioning to provoke deeper thought ("What's the author implying?"), provide reading choices, and support thesis creation and evidence-based writing.



Language & Literacy cont.

Activities:

- **Fact vs. Opinion Analysis:** Find and analyze articles to distinguish factual statements from opinions, then write an evidence-supported response
https://accessola.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2004_ThinkLitTeacherLibrarians.pdf?utm
- **Book-to-Movie Critical Comparison:** Watch a film adaptation and write a structured essay evaluating differences in plot, character arcs, and themes.
- **Power Writing Sessions:** Timed, informal writing sprints across subjects to build fluency and comfort with writing across domains
<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/writing/articles/range-writing-across-content-areas?utm>
- **Quotation Reflection Journal:** Collect meaningful quotes, analyze their significance, and reflect on how they resonate personally.
- **Constructed Response Prompts:** Use text-dependent questions requiring multi-paragraph answers supported with quotes and analysis.

Science & Technology

Literacy Focus:

Comprehension and use of scientific writing—hypothesis formulation, methods descriptions, data interpretation, and conclusion writing.

Parent Focus:

Encourage use of scientific vocabulary in writing and explain reasoning in full sentences; help maintain a clear lab or field notebook.

Activities:

- **How-To STEM Instruction Manual:** Read a STEM-themed book (e.g., "How to Catch a Dragon"), then design/build a related device and write a technical instruction manual
<https://havingfunfirst.com/2022/01/stem-and-reading-comprehension.html?utm>
- **Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Logs:** After experiments (e.g., erosion, electricity), record claims, supporting data, and scientific rationale.
- **Bottle Rocket Design Report:** Build and test a water rocket, document design process, variables tested, and outcomes <https://www.weareteachers.com/stem-activities/?utm>
- **Ecosystem Comparative Essay:** Create a mini-ecosystem model and write a comparative analysis using precise ecological terminology.
- **Microgravity Experiment Proposal:** Design a small experiment (e.g., plant growth), write a proposal with background, methodology, and expected findings



Social Studies

Literacy Focus:

Analyzing informational text, synthesizing perspectives, summarizing complex ideas, and writing reports or persuasive pieces.

Parent Focus:

Guide critical reading of multiple sources, encourage comparison, and support writing that includes citations and structured argument.

Activities:

- **Local Hero Profile:** Research a community figure, conduct interviews, and write a biographical essay with historical context.
- **Political Debate Paper:** Choose a current issue, research credible sources, and write a position paper with structured argument and counterpoints.
- **Historical Fiction Diary:** Write a diary entry as a historical figure, weaving factual events with imagined personal responses.
- **Cultural Recipe Analysis:** Investigate a recipe's origins, nutritional history, and cultural significance in an expository essay.
- **Geography Travel Blog:** Use maps and research to create a travel itinerary piece, explaining sites' historical or cultural relevance.

Arts

Literacy Focus:

Analysis of visual media, descriptive writing of art and performances, creative storytelling with narrative structure

Parent Focus:

When they create, encourage artist statements; when they observe, discuss themes, intent, and use of language to describe nuances.

Activities:

- **Gallery Critique Essay:** Visit (or view online) an art exhibit and write an analytical review, including theme, medium, and emotional impact.
- **Multimedia Storyboarding:** Plan a short film or graphic novel with panels and script, then reflect on visual versus written storytelling.
- **Lyric Interpretation Analysis:** Choose a song, annotate lyrics, write an interpretation essay linking to literary themes or personal experiences.



Arts cont.

Activities:

- **Poetry + Self-Portrait Pairing:** Write a poem and create a related self-portrait; write an artist statement describing the connection.
- **Social Justice Zine:** Produce a mini zine on a social issue with visuals and persuasive writing to raise awareness.

Health & Physical Education

Literacy Focus:

Writing clear, sequenced instructions; using domain-specific health terminology; reflecting on personal habits and well-being.

Parent Focus:

Encourage structured journaling about physical activity, nutrition, and emotional health; review their written reflections and offer support.

Activities:

- **Personal Fitness Plan Essay:** Write a multi-part fitness routine with goals, rationale, and evaluation criteria.
- **Nutrition Investigation Report:** Analyze the nutrition label of a favorite food and write a critique based on dietary guidelines.
- **First-Aid Handbook Creation:** Develop a step-by-step first-aid manual, combining illustrations and precise medical vocabulary.
- **Mindfulness & Yoga Journal:** Track mindfulness or yoga sessions and write reflective insights on mood or physical changes.
- **Sports Journalism Project:** Watch a game, then write a play-by-play commentary and a reflective post-game analysis

Why this Works

- **Writing Across the Curriculum** enhances learning in all subject areas, not just ELA https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing_across_the_curriculum?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- **STEM literacy activities** reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and reasoning https://stemsports.com/6-stem-literacy-activities-for-the-classroom/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- **Fact vs. opinion tasks and critical essay prompts** build analytical thinking essential for middle school students. https://accessola.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2004_ThinkLitTeacherLibrarians.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

