



Reading Messages

04 August 2022

To: Principals, Subject Advisors, Parents, Teachers, Departmental Heads, and Library Information Services (LIS) Coordinators.

Topic: Curriculum Recovery by coordinating extra-curricular support during school and outside school learning hours

Message Objectives are to:

- Design extra-curricular that will speed up curriculum recovery
- Provide teachers and parents with guidelines to improve reading

The National Reading Coalition (NRC) has noted the gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the past two years. The National Reading Coalition acknowledges that the curriculum gap will continue to exist unless extra-curricular activities are integrated into the children's learning programme both at schools and in homes. Speeding up reading is key in curriculum recovery because it is through reading that learners will understand the learning concepts across the curriculum. Below are some of the activities that could be implemented both at home and in schools to speed up the curriculum recovery process.

Tempt the learners to read the rest of a story or book by reading only the first chapter or section to them. Then stop reading and tell the learners where they can find the rest of the story or book. Find downloadable resources at <http://www.fundza.co.za/resources/> The chat catalogues are two pages from the beginning of a short play. Print out four copies and invite confident learners to read them aloud with you. You can also find downloadable stories via FunDza on WhatsApp. Save FunDza as a contact on your phone at 060 054 8676. This activity can be done both at school and at home.

Start a reading club

This can be done both virtually and physically. Ask learners to help you collect resources like interesting magazines and suitable books to start a reading club after school, or during their break times. The learners read the story/magazine/book and then discuss the characters, storyline, and information from the text(s). In addition, learners can do reading clubs on topics they find difficult in class.

Get learners writing

Encourage learners to keep journals to express their thoughts, hopes, and dreams. Encourage them to write poetry about what is important to them. Start a writing club. See <https://live.fundza.mobi/home/library/resources-education/me-with-you-writing-course/>). The writing clubs may also encompass writing homework through peer and parental support.

Special reading events:

Along with reading and writing clubs, there are important historical and social events that schools should support through community reading activities e.g., women's day and literacy days.

- Learners can read a variety of stories aloud to younger learners.
- **Read aloud:** Learners choose a story they would like to have read aloud in class. If they have no experience with books and stories, select a story or article to read to them.
- **Design a poster:** Invite learners to create posters that promote reading. They share their ideas on why reading is important.

Prepared by: Bailey Nkuna

Email address: bailey@nect.org.za