



15 April 2022

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

Topic: Activating curriculum in homes through reading with understanding to Foundation Phase learners.

Message Objectives are to:

- Establish ways of encouraging reading in homes to help learners grasp concepts faster.
- Promote reading for meaning through various reading activities.

The April Easter holidays create the opportunity for learners to be in homes with their families. Following the fact that so much time was lost during the covid-19 pandemic to cover the curriculum, the Easter holidays could also be used for reading through an established Reading Recovery programme.

Reading Recovery programmes are established to provide one-on-one tutoring to learners in the first grade. The goal of these programmes are to help struggling readers understand complex concepts and develop the crucial skills that they need to become better readers.

Foundation Phase learners who participate in the Reading Recovery programme can work one-on-one with a parent at home to help them understand reading concepts. Parents do not have to take a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to teaching reading. Instead, they can create customized activities based on each child's unique needs.

The Reading Recovery program may consist of a wide variety of activities, including:

- Reading books that are familiar to the child
- Writing stories
- Reading a new book per day
- Re-reading the new book from the previous day's lesson
- Using magnetic letters to create new words
- Learning more about letters, sounds, and spelling patterns

Each of the above activities has the potential to give Foundation Phase children an opportunity to work on many different types of reading skills, including phonemic awareness, decoding, and reading comprehension. More information could be obtained from [www.thinkingmatters.com](http://www.thinkingmatters.com).

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