

Helpful Tips

- Ages 4 to 7 is a critical time for learning to read.
- Read with your child for 20 minutes a day. Take turns reading, listening, and discussing.
- Touch each word as you read. This “one-to-one matching” shows how we read individual words and left to right movement.
- Point to lowercase (small) letters and uppercase (capital) letters.
- Show your child that words are made up of letters.
- Point out the spaces between words. You can demonstrate this by writing a sentence on a strip of paper and asking your child to watch as you cut the sentence into words.
- Count the number of words in a sentence or clap for each word spoken aloud.
- Read out loud words you see in everyday life.
- Point to a punctuation mark and name it.

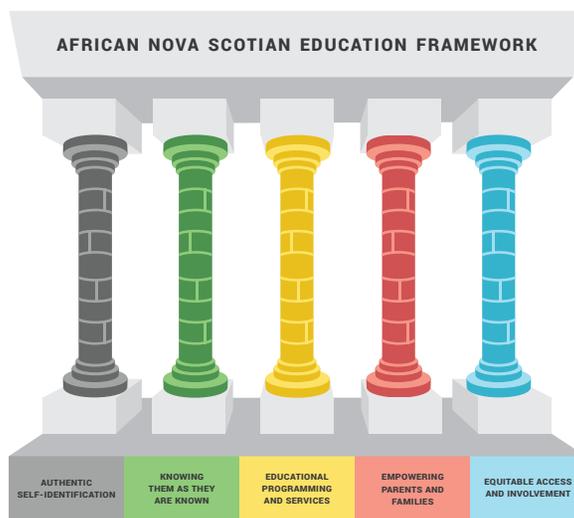
Questions to ask your child's teacher:

- What are my child's strengths?
- What skills do my child need to work on at home?
- How are you supporting my child in the classroom?
- When may we meet next to discuss my child's progress?

About the ACSB

ACSB is dedicated to collaborating across the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and with students, families, and the community to build a Nova Scotian education system that is equitable, culturally responsive, and a safe learning environment for all learners.

The pillars of the **African Nova Scotian Education Framework** outline the essential themes necessary to address the systemic barriers in education, allowing ANS/Black students to be heard, seen, inspired, and supported so they can reach their promise and potential.



For more information, contact:

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Empowering Parents and Families

Concepts of Print



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Inclusive Education! As your child's first teacher and advocate, we recognize the critical role you play in your child's education. For that reason, Empowering Parents and Families is one of the five pillars of the African Nova Scotian Education Framework.

Our actions are intentional. We strive to create opportunities to empower you, and your child's system of support, as essential decision-makers regarding programming and supports for your child. This is achievable through an authentic and collaborative partnership between home, school, and the community that supports and strengthens your child's well-being and achievement. To achieve this goal, we provide information, tools, and training.

You can use this brochure to increase your awareness of grade-level reading benchmarks, and what reading behaviours to look for when reading with your child at home. A perforated edge has been added allowing you to easily separate the panels. You can place the helpful tips in a highly visible area, like the refrigerator door, as a reminder to read and have fun!

Yours in education,

African Canadian Services Branch (ACSB)

“Sankofa” is derived from the Akin Twi and Fante languages of Ghana, loosely meaning “to retrieve.” The concept is represented by the Sankofa bird, with feet facing forward and head turned to retrieve an egg on its back. The symbol is presented on ACSB materials as a reminder that “in order to understand our present and ensure our future, we must know our past.”



SANKOFA

What are concepts of print?

Concepts of print refer to the basic understandings of how print and books work. As your child learns to read, they gain understanding about the features and function of text known as “concepts of print.”



Concepts of print include:

- how to hold a book
- books have a front cover, a back cover, a title, and an author
- where to start reading on a page
- we read from left to right
- we read from top to bottom
- we read to the end of a sentence
- there are lowercase (small) letters and uppercase (capital) letters
- letters make a word
- words make a sentence
- there are spaces between words
- sentences have punctuation
- print is what we read and carries meaning

Year-End Concepts of Print in Grades Primary to 1

Primary

Concepts of Print:

- identifying front and back of a book
- turning the pages in the correct direction
- identifying where to start reading on a page
- following words left to right and top to bottom
- pointing to a space between words to show where one ends and the next word begins
- pointing to one word as it is spoken (one-to-one matching)

Grade 1

Concepts of Print:

- talking about letters (individual letter names, a sound that a letter represents, etc.)
- talking about words (letter groups make words, the letters in a word go in the same order every time, etc.)
- talking about sentences (word groups make a sentence, a sentence carries a message, and there are spaces between words, etc.)

For more information about reading behaviours at different reading levels, visit the curriculum section of the EECD website:

<https://curriculum.novascotia.ca>



Other brochures in this series can be found in the Publications section of the ACSB website at www.ednet.ns.ca/acs/home.

