

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.
- Sing the alphabet song to help your child learn the letter names.
- Practice naming letters by pointing out letters in your child's name.
- Read alphabet books.
- Search for a letter on a page in a book.
- Describe shapes in a letter while tracing it.
- Make letters using play dough, pipe cleaners, sand, etc.
- Connect sounds to letters by practicing using the sound you hear at the beginning of a word (e.g., /b/ as in bus) or at the end of a word (e.g., /t/ as in mat).

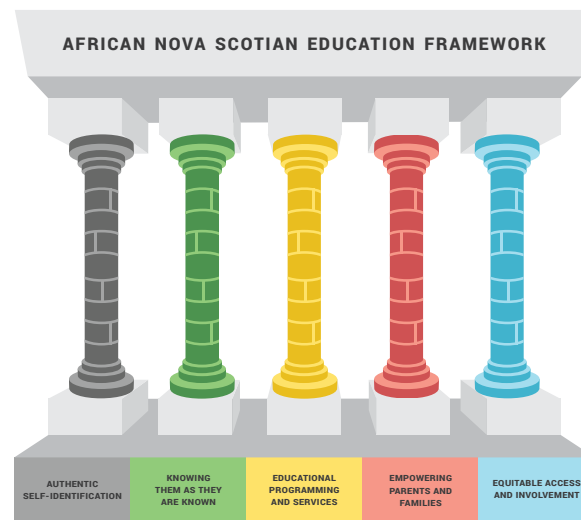
Questions to ask your child's teacher:

- 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

Alphabet Knowledge



Dear Parents and Families,

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.”

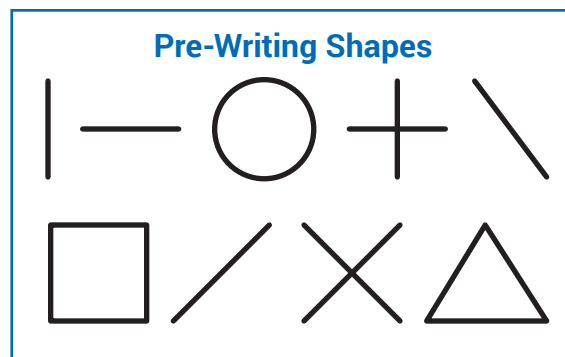


SANKOFA

What is alphabet knowledge?

Alphabet knowledge refers to understanding individual letter names, shapes, and sounds. Knowing letters and sounds is important to learning to read and is a predictor of future reading success in young children.

When beginning to learn about the alphabet, students become familiar with the shapes found in letters by making “pre-writing shapes.”



Alphabet knowledge includes:

- letter names (e.g., This is the letter **A**.)
- letter shapes (e.g., Letter **B** has one line down, one curve above, and one curve below.)
- letter sounds (e.g., The letter **C** represents the /c/ sound in cat.)
- recognizing uppercase (capital) letters and lowercase (small) letters
- ordering the alphabet in the correct sequence
- printing letters of the alphabet using correct formation
- building understanding that learning about letters and sounds leads to learning to read

Year-End Alphabet Knowledge in Grades Primary to 1

Primary

Alphabet Knowledge:

- recognizing and naming the letters of the alphabet
- matching uppercase and lowercase letters
- identifying the differences between letters that are visually similar (e.g., b/d and f/t)
- sequencing letters of the alphabet
- printing letters using correct formation

Grade 1

Alphabet Knowledge:

- recognizing that letters are divided into vowels and consonants
- making connections between letters and sounds in words
- using letters and sounds to read words
- printing all uppercase and lowercase letters using correct formation

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.

