



September 3, 2026

Ref: 319548

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students and families. As schools reopen this fall, I am pleased to share important information about early literacy screening which will support and strengthen your child's learning. It also plays a vital role in how government is focusing on educational excellence for all British Columbia students.

Across the province, government has been focused on improving literacy outcomes for all students. Early literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning, student confidence, and learner well-being. One of the most effective ways to ensure children stay on track with their reading development is through early literacy screening. Beginning this year, all public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 3 will use screening tools to help teachers identify when students may benefit from additional instruction or early intervention. This helps build strong reading skills and sets students up for future success.

You may not be familiar with early literacy screening but it is important to know what it is and why it matters. Early literacy screening is an assessment that happens in your child's classroom, two to three times across each school year. Screening is a way to check in on your child's early literacy skill development, and it can help identify any gaps in their learning that may require additional support. Screening is one of the tools that supports quality classroom instruction and intervention, and this is the first school year where screening is required for all public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Every day, your child will engage in early literacy learning through play-based activities and targeted instruction that builds oral language, reading, and writing skills. Whether they are singing the alphabet, exploring letter sounds and new vocabulary, or beginning to write simple sentences, these foundational experiences are essential building blocks for future academic success. If you would like to learn more about what your child is learning, please connect with their teacher. You can also explore the [BC Curriculum](#) for literacy and numeracy expectations by grade:

- [English Language Arts](#)
- [Français Langue Seconde](#)
- [Français Langue Première](#)
- [Mathematics](#)

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To better understand what proficiency looks like in foundational literacy and numeracy, you can refer to the Pathways to Proficiency parent and caregiver resources for both [Language Arts](#) and [Math](#). [A Parent Brochure](#) is also available with more details on early literacy, screening, and ways to support learning at home.

As a parent myself, I know how important it is to receive clear information about your child's learning and to feel confident that they are progressing. Here are a few ways you can stay connected and informed throughout the year:

- Monitor report card feedback: Watch for your child's report cards and review teacher comments about their literacy and numeracy development;
- Talk with your child's teacher: Regular communication helps ensure your child receives the support they need both at school and at home; and
- Reach out with questions: If you have questions about what your child is learning or the resources being used in their classroom, connect with your child's teacher first, or your school principal if needed. You can also refer to the [Learning Resources Policy Clarification](#) to learn more about the resource challenge process (see page 5).

When parents, caregivers, and teachers work together, students benefit from the strongest possible support. I wish you and your family a smooth and positive transition into the new school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Beare', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Beare
Minister