

Activating Literacy Skills for Young Learners

Anna Hasper, June 2017

What is “literacy”?

The term “literacy” refers to the ability to read and write and covers a range of skills. A literate person can understand printed words, numbers and images and can also create these to communicate a message. An equally important ability is to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas. So a literate person, as well as being able to read and write, also has listening skills and can discuss what they have read, seen, and heard and is able to interpret the information using their own experiences and knowledge. Nowadays, technology is also a factor that must be taken into account when talking about different literacy skills. Young learners need a firm foundation and understanding of the spoken language before they can become proficient readers and writers of any language but a holistic approach is more successful in which writing is integrated and gradually developed

Activity – Letter Jumble

How many words can you make from LITERACY JOURNEY in two minutes?

Activity - Stem sentence

- Complete the sentence (8 words max)
- Check with your partner
- Can you combine your definitions to make a better one?

*Literacy is...*_____

Activity – Dictogloss with a glance

- Read the text aloud at normal speed - students listen only
- Read the text again – students write down key words
- In pairs students reconstruct the text; key is meaning, they do not need the exact same
- Give them 30 seconds to ‘glance’ if needed
- Elicit the text back & feedback.