

Information Literacy

What is it? What does it look like?

The basic goal of information literacy is to enable people to become lifelong learners. The premise of this goal is that information literate individuals will be able to sift through the enormous amount of information available, effectively using appropriate sources to solve problems and make decisions in all areas of their lives.

Information literacy implies knowing:

1. When information is needed (the first and often the hardest ability to master).
2. What kind of information is needed.
3. How to get the needed information.
4. How to evaluate the quality/suitability of acquired information (particularly important in an age when people tend to believe anything the computer tells them).
5. How to use acquired information for problem solving, decision making or creation of new ideas.

How can it help?

Information literate people are resourceful and independent learners. They display confidence in their ability to solve problems and can determine relevancy to their particular need.

Promoting information literacy helps your child gain critical skills through the discovery and use of appropriate information sources. This requires them to develop their curiosity and discover for themselves the nature of information in formats relevant to their situation and appropriate to their learning styles. It helps them to develop information seeking strategies, to challenge the credibility of sources, and to develop confidence in using resources available to them both in and beyond the classroom.

Does it fall into any of the areas at school?

Skills that fall into the area of information literacy give students the ability to acquire and make use of reliable data relevant to a problem, question or issue. One of the first information literacies we learn at school is to make meaning of text, to learn to read. Another is to use numbers in meaningful ways.

What can I do as a parent?

Encourage

Immerse

Guide and offer direction

QUESTION

Model

Challenge

Ideas...

- Reading- spend time discussing the material with your child (eg. the characters, the plot, possible alternatives, etc.).
- Internet- learn how to search with your child. Try boolean searching (searching for multiple terms at once). Most search engines have a guide to learning this, it is usually in their advanced search help menu. Try this URL to start you off: <http://www.nouveaux.com/Boolean.htm>

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