

### What Do We Mean by Literacy?

**You will often hear people talking about literacy skills, but what does this mean?**

Literacy has previously been thought of as just the skills of reading and writing. Today we know that literacy is about being able to read and understand various forms of communication, not just books, but spoken language, broadcast media such as television and radio, and digital media like the internet and apps for your phone.

In early childhood, the development of literacy involves:

- Babies hearing sounds and babbling and repeating them.
- Later sharing books or stories on DVD or TV or other information communication technologies such as computer-based texts, images, voice and music recordings or games on mobile phones.
- Listening, looking at and talking about the pictures in books with others.
- Making marks in sand and on paper.

