

# Saanich Schools Literacy Link

## Tools, Tips and Strategies to Support Literacy at Home



### March Into Literacy!

Spark curiosity this month with family activities that inspire reading, writing, and storytelling:

- **Sidney Museum:** [Lego Brick Exhibition](#)
- **Swan Lake Nature Centre:** [Invertebrate Week](#)
- **Royal BC Museum:** [Wildlife Photographer of the Year](#)
- **Visit Our Local Libraries:** [VIRL](#) & [GVPL](#)



Check out our new website: [Supporting Literacy at Home](#)

### Growing Strong Readers: Understanding Word Parts

Big words can feel tricky, but they're often made of smaller parts that have meaning. When children learn to notice these little parts of words, reading and spelling start to make much more sense.

These meaning-pieces are known as **morphemes**, and they help us understand how words are built. For example, play, replay, and played each contain morphemes that change the word's meaning.

**Base Words** - Words that can stand alone like play, help, kind, hope.

**Root Words** - Words parts that hold meaning but usually can't stand alone like - bio (life) and geo (earth).

**Prefixes** - Word beginnings that change the meaning:  
**re-**(again) → **replay**, **un-**(not) → **unkind**, **pre-**(before) → **preview**

**Suffixes** - Word endings that add new meaning:  
**-ed** → **played** (already happened), **-ing** → **playing** (happening now)



### Ways to Support Morpheme Learning at Home

#### Word-Building Games

Choose a base word and see how many new words you can make together:

- help → helpful, helpless, helper
- play → replay, played, playful

Try this in the car, at dinner, or while waiting in line.

#### Word Parts to Everyday

Use real-world examples:

- "We need to defrost the chicken. De- means remove."
- "Your shirt is colourful. -ful means full of something."

These quick explanations help children understand how language works.

#### Prefix or Suffix of the Week

Explore one prefix or suffix for a whole week.

- Prefix "un-": unhappy, unlock, unfair
- Suffix "-ful": careful, helpful, joyful

Ask your child to spot the weekly word part in books, signs, or conversations.