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TAKALANI SESAME™

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Learn and grow with *Takalani Sesame*



Takalani Sesame makes learning fun!
Let *Takalani Sesame* support the wonderful
work you are doing with your child.
Together, we can give your
child a great start in life.



ENGLISH

Dear Parents and Caregivers

You are your child's first teacher! Through your interest, stimulation and interaction with your children you teach them that learning can be both challenging and fun.

Takalani Sesame is a multimedia project that includes television and radio programmes, and outreach activities that help you to do your important work as the most important people in your children's lives. *Takalani Sesame* is unique and has been designed to introduce young South African children to Numeracy, Literacy and Life Skills – the building blocks for children's learning.

Takalani Sesame opens the exciting world of learning and creativity to all of South Africa's children. We encourage you to watch and listen to *Takalani Sesame* with your children to help make their early learning experience as rewarding as possible.

This booklet is full of tips and advice to support the work you are already doing in ensuring that your children fulfil their potential. Let's help our children learn to love learning. We hope that you enjoy using the ideas in this booklet.

Best wishes

Takalani Sesame

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Learning together with *Takalani Sesame*

How do you get the most out of *Takalani Sesame*? Watching or listening to the show together with your children, and then using the ideas on *Takalani Sesame*, will help you to be your child's first teacher.



Step 1: Watch or listen

The best way to help your child learn the messages on *Takalani Sesame* is to encourage them to participate in the show. How do you do this? Well, to start with you will need to watch or listen with them. Here are some other ideas for you to use...

- ◆ Ask your child open-ended questions about the show (who, what, why, when, how) which encourage more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer.
- ◆ Help your child to identify shapes, colours, numbers and letters etc.
- ◆ Discuss the feelings of the characters and ask your child how he or she feels about what is happening on the show.
- ◆ Encourage your child to sing, chant or dance along with the show.

Step 2: Talk about the themes

- ◆ Reinforce these ideas afterwards, by looking for books or making up stories with your children that relate to the theme and content of the show.
- ◆ Get your child to tell you what he or she liked best about the show.
- ◆ Talk to your children about what they learnt from the show and how it is relevant to their own lives.



Step 3: Do related activities

- ◆ Extend what your children have already learnt by doing activities together with them. Try to build on what was in the show. Remember to include objects that your child can touch and play with.
- ◆ Use the ideas and activities on the following pages for inspiration...

Literacy Learning Programme

The Literacy Learning Programme is made up of various skills – talking, listening, reading and writing. All four of these skills are important and each helps to support and balance the others. You can use the *Takalani Sesame* shows to create your own activities that encourage your children to use spoken and written language in meaningful, creative and fun ways.

Speaking and listening

- ◆ Talking and singing to your child helps to feed his or her natural thirst for language. It also provides the first step towards literacy, by helping your child love language and learn words.
- ◆ As your children get older, encourage them to talk to you, by asking questions and listening carefully. This allows them to practise using words. They also realise that what they say matters to other people.

Tell stories and read together

- ◆ Try to spend 30 minutes a day reading or telling stories to your child from as early as possible.
- ◆ It helps to talk to your children about the stories you read or tell them. You could ask a few open-ended questions while you are reading or telling the



story such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'How would you feel if that happened to you?' Including a question time afterwards is also a good idea where you can answer any questions your child may have.

- ◆ When reading together, stop every now and then to point out the words as you read them, and then point to the part of the picture they stand for. Your child will begin to understand that the pictures help you to read the words.
- ◆ We have such a rich mix of languages in our country, and we need to share as many as we can with our children. If you speak more than one language, you could tell stories or read books in all these languages. This will be of huge benefit to your child.



Literacy Learning Programme

Learning about letters

- ◆ Each episode of *Takalani Sesame* focuses on a specific letter. Reinforce this by making cut outs of that letter. Then make a game out of helping your children stick them on objects around your home that begin with that letter.
- ◆ Young children's scribbles are their first writing, so try to make materials like paper, crayons, charcoal, pencils, etc. available from around two years old.

Learning about writing

- ◆ Together, write a list of names of the people who are important in your child's life. Remember scribbles are your child's first writing!
- ◆ Help your child make a birthday card for someone special.
- ◆ Encourage your child to use writing during play, e.g. making shopping lists when playing 'shop'.
- ◆ Point out and read everyday writing to your child – from road signs to news boards to cereal boxes.

Learning about reading

Reading is fun, interesting and its lessons are forever. By expressing an interest and enjoyment in books ourselves, we set a good example for our children. They learn that reading is something worth learning how to do. Here are some ways to get children interested in books...

- ◆ Introduce your baby to cardboard or cloth books with large pictures of things he or she sees every day. Young children love books with rhyme and these books teach them sounds, rhythm and words.
- ◆ Make your own books from paper and wool – and start a collection!
- ◆ When your child is between three and seven years old, you can start to make or look for books with longer stories and more words on the page. Also try to find or make books that repeat words or sentences – these are great for helping your child to begin to read or recognise words.

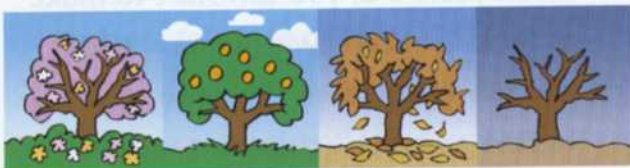


Numeracy Learning Programme

Takalani Sesame television and radio shows have some wonderful ways of helping your children learn about numbers and counting, and other maths concepts and skills. Each show focuses on a number. Some shows also have other numeracy concepts that relate to the show's theme. It helps to follow up by exploring and applying basic mathematical concepts with your children. Here are some ideas...

Patterns and relationships

- ◆ Discuss the events of the day with your children: 'First we will eat breakfast, then you will go to school, then we will go to the shops.' This will help them to understand the sequence of events as a pattern.
- ◆ You can also help your child find patterns in pictures, in movement or in the passing of time like the days of the week or the seasons of the year.



Number concept

- ◆ Help your children to find numbers in the area where you live or as you travel. For example, numbers on street signs, on vehicle licence plates or in shop windows.

- ◆ Count anything and everything – from telephone poles along the street to each spoonful of breakfast your child eats. This helps to teach your child how we use numbers everyday!
- ◆ Sing songs that have numbers in them. Songs are a playful way for your child to practise counting.

Shapes

- ◆ Let your child use different shaped objects at home – like different shaped boxes and containers for example, or cut sandwiches into different shapes and allow your child to fit the pieces back together.
- ◆ Notice different shapes as you walk around the neighbourhood or travel in a car, bus or taxi. Road signs are a good place to start. Ask your children about the signs they see. 'Is this sign the same as the last one we saw?' 'How many sides and corners does this one have?' 'What shape is it?'



