

# January Tips for Language and Literacy Skills

*Courtesy of the GECDsB Speech and Language Department*



## Oral Language

- Play the Wh- Question game together:
  - Take turns asking and answering wh- questions together. Wh- questions are question words like: Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?
    - Examples:
      - Who checks your teeth? (Dentist)
      - What do we wear in the winter? (Coat, boots, hat etc.)
      - Where do we put dirty dishes? (Sink, dishwasher)
      - When do you use an umbrella? (When it's raining)
      - Why do we go to school? (To learn new things)
      - How does a car move? (It uses gas to move)

## Reading

- Work on reading fluency together:
  - Reading fluency is the smoothness of our reading. Our ability to accurately and smoothly, read a passage without slowing down to sound out words i.e., 'Reading like you talk'.
  - Here are some tips for working on this skill:
    - Practice reading grade level Dolch and Fry list words (ask your child's teacher for this information). The accuracy of your child's reading is greatly improved with knowledge of all grade level sight words.
    - Write short sentences using Dolch and Fry list words then read and re-read the sentences to work on reading them smoothly.
    - Read and re-read familiar texts. Read through stories again and again to work on smoothly, accurately reading a text without sounding out words. The more you read a book, the easier it becomes to read it.

## Writing

- Have fun writing down answers to silly questions related to the month of January
- Sample Questions:
  - Write a story called "The Funny Snowman Adventure."
  - If you met a talking polar bear, what would you ask it? What would the polar bear say back?
  - Write everything you know about what animals do in the winter.
  - Write about a winter day. Tell about the colours, smells, tastes and sounds.
  - Would a penguin make a good pet? Why or why not?