Every parent wants their children to be able to read, write and communicate effectively. I believe the very best way to help them develop the skills they need is to create a rich and varied literacy environment for them. Reading, singing, reciting, talking, writing, listening and playing with and in front of our kids really helps!

In this third edition of Literacy Lava, you'll find ideas for promoting literacy through inexpensive activities you can do with your kids. Find out what your local library has to offer, read ideas on making books with kids, sneak some learning into shopping, discover games that build literacy skills, develop imagination while playing Grocery Store, make writing part of your family's life, read why picture books are so good for kids, and find out how literacy helped one child fight night terrors. Don’t forget to check out the Online Extras page, and the Writing Prompt activity page for kids.

Our hope is that with Literacy Lava, you and your kids will have fun, while building the skills they need to read, write and communicate successfully. Please spread the word about the magic of children's literacy by sharing your copy of Literacy Lava with a friend.

The Book Chook, editor.
Contributors to Literacy Lava

Links to Literacy
Dawn Little is the founder of Links to Literacy, an educational consulting company dedicated to providing interactive learning experiences for children and families. In addition, Dawn runs two blogs: Picture This! Teaching with Picture Books where she provides educators and parents with picture book resources to teach reading comprehension and writing strategies, and Literacy Toolbox where she offers tips and tools for educators and parents to enhance the literacy lives of children.

Moms Inspire Learning
Dawn Riccardi Morris started Moms Inspire Learning in order to share her love of learning and reading with parents, grandparents, teachers, and librarians. She has a special interest in picture books, and believes that they can be used to inspire a lifelong love of learning and reading in children. Dawn is a non-practicing certified public accountant, and holds a graduate degree in elementary education.

Chatel Village
Visit Chatel Village, the fuzziest site on the net! Cyber-home to author Kim Chatel and her creations. There's fun for kids and parents including recipes, crafts, book and movie reviews, contests and more. Check it out at www.kimchatel.com.

Imagination Soup
Imagination Soup is a learning activities blog for inquisitive kids written by Melissa Taylor, mom, teacher and writer. When you need a fun reading, writing, science or math activity, stop by Imagination Soup, read and subscribe. Imagination Soup will give you simple ways to integrate learning with your kids (ages 2 - 12) at home. We promise you and your kids will have lots of FUN! Melissa Taylor created Imagination Soup with you in mind. She's an educational freelance writer. Read about Melissa and her published work on her website.

The Almost Librarian
The Almost Librarian blog celebrates and promotes early childhood education, early literacy and family by providing on-line resources, book and music recommendations, and activity ideas for parents, caregivers, librarians and teachers.

teach mama
Amy Mascott is the creator of teachmama, where she shares the ways that she sneaks a little bit of learning into her children’s every day. As a Reading Specialist and former high school English teacher, Amy’s focus for teachmama is to empower parents by providing them with the tools and resources they need to be the best teachers they can be for their children.
Creating books with children is such a wonderful way to combine reading and writing. Kids love to make things, and have fun looking back on their early efforts. Whether toddler or teen, there’s a book format just right for your child.

Before they start, get them to think about who they are writing for. Will Grandma be reading these recipes, or is it perhaps a story book for young Billy? Why are they writing? Are they hoping it will entertain the reader, or is it to inform? Even quite young children can learn the habit of thinking about audience and purpose before they communicate.

**Alphabet Books**

These are a great idea for a first book project. Find an empty scrap book, exercise book or just staple paper together. Write each letter of the alphabet on a separate page, and try to find pictures to illustrate it. Pictures can be drawn, cut from old magazines, clip art or stickers, or you can look for things to photograph to represent each letter. An alphabet book has much more meaning when the pictures are photos of objects around your home. If you use photos, consider a small photograph album as your book.

**Magazines**

The idea of writing a long story is too much for some kids. But combining their own art work, short stories, poems, jokes and cartoons into a magazine for others to read can be much more motivational. Take a look at some great children's magazines like Alphabet Soup first, and use them as a model.

**Picture Books**

Children love to listen to picture books being read aloud. They often learn to “read” by memorizing favourite stories. Using picture books as a model is a great way to encourage kids to create their own picture books. These can be as simple as art work with printed captions, stapled together, to more elaborate publications. If you want the book to last, consider having pages laminated, or even using one of the book publishing services, like love2read.com.

**Choose Your Own Adventure Books**

Kids who like to read fantasy, or play video games with fantasy themes, often enjoy creating stories which have more than one pathway. The main idea is to stop at a point where the reader must make a decision about the direction the story next goes, and then provide alternatives. There are free downloadable tools like Twine that help make this process interactive.

**Chapter Books**

We’re never too old for picture books, but once children are confident readers, they might be interested in creating a novel. This is a lot of work, but gives young writers a huge sense of accomplishment once complete. The very best advice I have for children who want to write, is to read, read, read!

**Digital Books**

Several free online sites allow families to create digital books. One I reviewed recently on The Book Chook blog is Storybird. The wonderful thing about Storybird is that it offers artwork by actual illustrators to inspire kids’ stories. It only takes a moment to join, and the interface is very simple to use. Once created, your digital books can be shared with family and friends. Other sites like PhotoPeach, and Myths and Legends offer different opportunities for creating stories in the form of books.

Whichever format you and your child choose to make a book, I can guarantee you'll find an outlet for all that creativity just bursting to find a home. At the same time, you know you'll be helping your son or daughter make wonderful memories and develop literacy skills that will be useful for the rest of their lives.
I am determined to sneak a little bit of learning into every one of my children's days. I'm not talking sit down and do a workbook, either. My kiddos are young—5, 4, and 2—so the learning I'm talking about has to quick, exciting, fun, and most often, it's disguised as a game. They don't even have a clue that they're learning while they're doing it.

So when I was desperate to do some shopping at the grocery store one day, rather than complain about the fact that I didn't have a babysitter to watch my three little ones, I hit the computer and put them to work! I made a Shopping List for each one of my children, complete with large, easy-to-read words and pictures next to each word. I printed them on card stock so they'd withstand the trip, and I put a short line before each word so they could check off items as they were found. It was so easy, and I plan to keep them and modify them as necessary for the next few years.

My oldest child's list had more items than the rest, and my baby only had four things on hers. All the items were things my kiddos were familiar with, so that made finding them a bit easier.

I prepped everyone for their challenge when we sat down for breakfast, and they were totally psyched to see their lists. I said, "Okay, my friends. You know it's been a busy week for Mommy and Daddy. We've got a lot going on this week, and we haven't had time to go grocery shopping. I really need your help today at the store, so I'm going to put you each in charge of your own shopping lists. You're going to need to read the words on your list, find the item in the store, then check it off of your list after you put it in the basket. Who's up for it?"

They hooted and hollered and reached for their lists. We read them together--using the words and the pictures because young readers should be encouraged to use pictures to help them decode words.

Reading is just that—using both the text and context to make sense of what's on a page. It can be a big help for an emerging reader to recognize the letter "a" in the word "apple" and see a picture of an apple next to it. Using what they know about the "a" sound and what word "apple" begins with, they can make an educated guess about the word on the page. As they learn more letter-sound relationships, they won't need the pictures, but they sure help in the beginning!

The list-reading really works out well for us, and I have modified their lists numerous times in the last few months. It keeps them focused on accomplishing a task that needs to be done for our family, but above all, it gets my little ones reading—and learning—in a fun, sneaky way.
Playing Games with Literacy
by Dawn Morris, Moms Inspire Learning

When my son was in 4th grade, he came home from school one day with an unusual request. He had invited a few friends to sleep over for his birthday, and he wanted me to buy Mad Libs as party favors for his guests! It brought back a lot of memories for me, but I had no idea how he had even heard of the game.

It turns out that his wonderful teacher had them available in her writing center, and the students were able to work on them in small groups. What a fun way for children to build upon their knowledge of nouns, verbs, and adjectives!

Well, I know what you’re thinking. At a birthday party, boys can get pretty silly with the bathroom humor! It’s okay, because little do they know it, but they’re learning while they’re having fun. Sometimes, learning comes in the best disguises.

Games like Mad Libs show us that literacy is about so much more than just reading, writing, and hard work. When you really stop and think about it, all types of communication involve literacy. How many games can you play without listening and speaking? Not too many...

If we want to put the “L” back into Literacy, we need to play games our children will LOVE. There are so many benefits that go beyond literacy. Think about the social skills children learn when they play games. Cooperating, taking turns, working as part of a team, and controlling anger are some essential life skills that can be learned (in disguise) through games.

Here are just a few of the many word games your family might enjoy:

**For ages 10 and up:**

* **Boggle** is a game which requires you to find as many words as you can within a certain time frame. It’s not only great for word recognition, but also for spatial perception.

* **Scrabble** is a classic word game of strategy, problem solving, and word recognition. If you let children look up words in the dictionary, it’s a great way to for them to expand their vocabulary.

* **Apples to Apples** is an award-winning game of comparisons. You’ll use humor and imagination to make all kinds of analogies, which really gets you thinking “outside the box!”

**For ages 6 to 9:**

* **Apples to Apples Kids** is a great (also award winning) introduction to the original version, and will inspire your budding reader to make all kinds of comparisons.

* **Bananagrams** is a simple version of Scrabble. It’s a portable game that you can take with you anywhere and play in a short amount of time. You just need a table or a flat surface.

These are a few of our favorites, but even math related games can help your child to build upon literacy skills. Speaking, listening, reading game cards, keeping score, problem solving, and critical thinking are all skills that are related to literacy. Check out the sidebar for more game ideas!

Photo credit: Flickr
Recently, preschoolers transformed my basement into a grocery store. I watched as shoppers gathered up plastic oranges and baggies of Goldfish crackers. Stockers, wearing name tags, put groceries on display, each item labeled with a price. The bakery lady, a pig-tailed four year old in a gingerbread apron, cried out, “Fresh bread.” Three kids waited patiently in the checkout line with bags and carts filled with “food”.

I observed, transfixed. Not one child asked me for help, or whined about what to do. Instead, the children role-played, conversed and behaved like they were really at a grocery store.

This mature, imaginative play wouldn’t have happened if I’d told the children to “go play store”. “Huh?” they would have said.

We often think that kids can use their imaginations to just “go play”. But, in truth, we must help develop and support their imaginations. We do this by creating play scenarios with foundations.

Education research shows that supported, imaginative play develops important thinking and social skills as well as correlates to reading and writing success. For example, psychologist and researcher Elena Bodrova says that, “When children engage in this kind of play . . . they learn to delay gratification and to prioritize their goals and actions. They also learn to consider the perspectives and needs of other people.”

To get started, keep in mind three essentials for longer lasting imaginative play:

1. Imaginary scenario (theme)
2. Build background knowledge, with talking, listening, reading and writing
3. Provide props
4. Play

Here’s a Grocery Store Example:

1. Imaginary scenario
   The grocery store

2. Background Knowledge
   Talk about trips to the grocery store. See what the children already know. What do they like about the grocery store? What do they do? Do they bring a list?

Write an individual shopping list. Get grocery store ads from your Sunday paper. Let the children cut out favorite foods and paste the food on a sheet of construction paper. Now, help each child say the word and listen for the beginning letter sounds. Ask the child to write the letter that matches the beginning sound. Add on by helping them listen for the beginning and ending sounds and write both letters.

Read a non-fiction book about the grocery store. I chose a book that introduced grocery store words like produce, bakery, dairy and stocker.

Read a fiction book about the grocery store. We read *Maisy Goes Shopping* by Lucy Cousins.

3. Props
   Provide as many props as possible. I used aprons, shopping carts, purses, play money, name tags, plastic and real food, tables, a plastic cash register and station, pens and sticky notes, reusable bags, and individual shopping lists.

4. Play Grocery Store
   Facilitate choosing “roles” for the first round or two of play. Create as many “roles” as kids—shopper, checker, bagger, stocker, baker, deli worker, and so on.

Step back and allow the play to begin.

Find the imaginative scenarios in your daily life or favorite books. Watch as your child imagines herself as a band leader, a mail carrier or a dragon slayer. I hope that you, like me, will gaze transfixed.
When is my baby old enough for picture books?

Picture books make great read-alouds. Children will watch the pictures while they listen to you reading the story. If your baby seems too young for the whole story, try just talking about the pictures. He’ll love this special time with you.

While they’re watching and listening, they’re developing so many of the skills they need for learning to read and write. They also learn that books are precious, and how to turn pages and respect a book. Young writers soon learn the difference between a scribble book, and one they will treasure always.

What’s So Good About Picture Books?

by Susan Stephenson, the Book Chook

Picture books are the heroes of the book world. They are versatile, powerful, and entrancing.

As Claire Saxby, author of *Sheep, Goat and The Creaking Gate*, explained in an interview recently, “Picture books are a wonderful entrance point to the magic of words, to literacy, but also to the world.”

What makes picture books so great?

For a start, they can introduce your child to new activities. There are wonderful non-fiction picture books in your local library or store, ready and waiting to spark your child’s imagination. Try searching for topics he’s already shown an interest in, let him browse to find his own, or chat to the librarian about what’s new. I am a great believer in borrowing or buying as wide a range of subject matter and genre as possible. This allows kids to be exposed to books they didn’t know they would love!

Picture books are a way for quite young children to experience other peoples’ lives. It helps them to gain an understanding of things outside the reach of their own world. And the books that encourage them to do this don’t have to be non-fiction. Many great fiction writers use backgrounds and characters for their stories that are based on real life. Sharing a picture book about a child who lives in a different country can help your child learn tolerance and grasp similarities and differences of cultures around the world.

Another huge benefit of picture books is that they start kids on the pathway to reading. From listening, watching and imagining, children proceed through pre-reading steps like memorizing and predicting, until they begin to recognize letters and words and make meaning from text. Picture books with simple predictable text and appealing illustrations are often the first books children actually read.

They’re so much more interesting than a story about a cat that sat on a mat!

Picture books encourage kids to dream. And kids need dreams. There’s something about a great picture book that stimulates a child’s imagination and enables her to create her own stories and dreams. Reading about heroes such as fire fighters, sporting stars, and those who set out to help others can inspire kids to set goals and make changes in their own lives.

Probably my very favourite picture books are those that tap into children’s innate love of humour and language.

In *Sheep, Goat and the Creaking Gate*, Claire Saxby rifs on the theme of the grass always being greener on the other side of the fence. Sheep really really wishes she had a Jellagong tree in her paddock, just like the one in Goat’s paddock. Goat really really wishes he had a cool stream in his paddock, just like the one Sheep has. The trials of the two animals who don’t want to share will make kids giggle, but also make them think about how unsettling it is to always want something you can’t have. Picture books can be powerful teachers in this way - not by preaching, but by allowing children to share characters’ problems and work out conclusions for themselves.

Listening to a picture book being read aloud is a wonderful first step to reading for any child. Kids learn to associate reading with pleasure. We all have an innate love of story, so it’s not surprising that kids love the closeness and individual attention of a regular story time. While they’re listening from a parent’s lap, they’re looking at pictures, making inferences, internalizing language and learning to love books. Picture books help kids take the first steps on a lifelong journey to literacy.

Is it any wonder that we call them heroes?
Give Your Family the Write Start
by Dawn Little

Other Authentic Family Writing Experiences:

- Have each family member make a list of things to do for the day/week.
- Write notes to slip into lunch boxes. End the note with a question. Ask your child to respond to the note in writing when he returns from school.
- Make a Top Ten List of . . . birthday gifts, games to play, chores to complete – endless opportunities.
- Make ABC books about favorite family topics (seasons, holidays, vacations, etc.).
- Provide a Family Dialogue Journal in a central spot such as the kitchen. Write notes to each other in the journal. Provide different color pens to differentiate between family members.

We often forget that reading and writing go hand in hand. If we want to be a better reader, we need to write more. Conversely, if we want to be a better writer, we need to read more. Parents can help children reach higher levels of literacy not only by reading with them, but by writing with them, too. By weaving writing into the fabric of your family’s daily life, you are nurturing your child’s learning and can create traditions that will last for generations to come.

Creating a Write Start Environment

If we want to encourage a love of anything, we must immerse ourselves in it. Therefore, in order to encourage a love for writing in our families, we must immerse our families in writing. The easiest way to do this is to provide many opportunities to write during the day and to have writing materials easily accessible. Make your house writer friendly. Set up a writing center for your children – a space to free write. Provide plenty of writing tools: pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils and markers. Provide different types of paper: lined paper, plain paper, stationery, envelopes, notepads, etc. Don’t forget construction paper, glue, and staplers for children to make their own books. Make the space fun and inviting.

Make Writing Relevant

Writing is learned best when it occurs in authentic situations. So, tie writing into what you are doing as a family. This may be as simple as having your child write out the grocery list for the week, write a recipe for his/her favorite meal, or to write thank you notes for gifts received. Special ways to make writing authentic: create Family Vacation Journals. Take pictures to paste in the journal and write about the event. Or create Family Activity Journals. You or your child can take pictures of day to day family activities. Place the photograph in the journal and then write about it. Aim to take one picture a day. One very special and easy way to encourage writing is by encouraging your child to begin a correspondence with a family member or other type of pen pal. A grandparent is a perfect candidate, especially if they don’t live nearby. Writing letters or even emails is a great way for your children to share their daily/weekly/monthly activities with their grandparent. And each will enjoy receiving mail from the other.

Make Writing a Family Tradition

Make writing a part of your family’s activities and it will quickly become tradition. Create a weekly family writing night. During these evenings, take turns adding to a Family History Journal. Have each family member write about something special that happened during the week. If you have a child who is not yet writing, have them draw a picture. Create Father/Son or Mother/Daughter dialogue journals. Use these journals to “talk” with your pre-teen or teenager about their day. They may feel more comfortable sharing events in their lives if they don’t actually have to verbalize them. Use the dialogue journal to ask questions and seek answers, to provide encouragement, or to apologize.

However you choose to incorporate writing into the fold of your family’s fabric, I hope you create family traditions that live for generations to come. What sweet memories they will hold as your children grow up, move on, and have children of their own.

For additional parent resources visit Links to Literacy

Links to Literacy

For additional parent resources visit Links to Literacy
Knowing I am about to become a librarian, several people have mentioned to me that they thought libraries are obsolete in this age of digital information. But I am here to say that libraries are alive and well. They are also an amazing resource for parents and children. Not all libraries offer the same programs, facilities or services, but if you haven’t visited your local branch recently, you should stop in and see what they have to offer. Libraries are there for you and your family.

**On-line Catalog**

Gone are the days of those card catalog files - do you remember those? Yikes. Most libraries now have their catalogs on-line which you can access at the library or from home. Think about that. It streamlines your book choosing process. You can use the catalog on-line at home when it’s convenient for you, before your trip to the library. You can verify author last name, where to find the book inside the library etc. And you might be able to go one step further. Let’s say the book is available. At many libraries, if you place a hold or a reserve on the title, the librarians will pull it from the shelf and notify you when it is ready for pick up from the check out desk. Or if the title you want is not available, you can place a hold on it and then the library will notify you when it is ready for pick up at the desk. It’s a great feature for time crunched parents.

**Story Times, Special Events, a Place to Be**

Many library children’s areas are no longer the “Shhhhhhh!” places they used to be. Many are located conveniently near the library entrance (so you don’t have the haul the stroller too far) and are filled with more than just books. You might find child-sized, comfy furniture, books, CDs, computers and computer games, toys, puzzles, train tables, puppet theaters and puppets, DVDs and VHS tapes, magazines and more. They are usually cheerful places that encourage patrons and the children to come and stay a while - a great alternative on rainy days, cold days, dreary days or any day.

Lots of children’s departments offer a wonderful line up of events and story times for all ages. They want you to come and participate. They welcome your feedback. And you never know, you might make a new friend. So ask for the upcoming schedule.

**Personalized Assistance**

Don’t know what book or author to check out next? Ask a librarian! They have so many ideas to share, and are bursting to provide you with a short list of 20 books they think you might love. Here is a chance for your child to develop another positive relationship with an adult in the community. Children’s librarians are usually patient when talking with children, so give your little guy a chance to have some great conversations.

**Try Cool Stuff for Free**

Children’s departments offer so much more than just books. Of course, there are still books and board books, but many now also have audio books, music CDs, magazines, movies, computer software and games, puppets, toys, board games, or puzzles you can check-out. Theme totes are another great feature: bags that contain books, videos, CDs and toys or puzzles or games, all related to a theme like “farms”. And what’s fantastic about all of this is that if you keep track of it all and return it on time, in working condition, you can try it for free! So you have nothing to lose if you check out a book or CD that’s not your style.
Having a sensitive child is a blessing and a trial. At two years old, Genna recited a poem to me that ended “Mommy I love you in my heart.” Ouch. That one went all the way through me. But as she gets older that wonderful sensitivity has manifested in other ways. Genna loves hard, laughs a lot, but she also worries hard, and is easily influenced by external factors whether it’s a mean comment from a classmate or a creepy story.

I made the mistake of letting my Genna watch a scary movie (I won’t mention the title, but it rhymes with Caroline). For weeks afterwards, she was convinced that if she fell asleep, she would wake up in a different house. She even wondered if I was truly her mother! Thankfully, our cat, Griffin, knew who I was. That was her only reassurance. Nothing I said would console Genna.

The worry escalated to night terrors. My heart was breaking for her. I forbade her to talk about it at bedtime because it just put her over the top of hysteria, but promised that she could talk to me about it any other time. Several afternoons, she spent weeping in my arms. When she told me that this unreasonable fear sometimes seized her in the middle of the day at school, I started to really worry. I felt like I was in over my head with this, and was contemplating professional help.

Coupled with my worry was impatience and frustration. I tried tenderness, role-playing and tough love. Nothing. Finally, in a tense moment I threw out the challenge for Genna to find a solution, since none of mine worked. And she did. She started a "Fear Journal." Every night she wrote and drew in this book. She made a newspaper and wrote articles about conquering her fear. She even made little ads in the newspaper for things like the ‘Mind Mac’ which is a computer that helps her calculate her fear. She made a map of a neighborhood with friendly places she can think of when she's afraid. In her house there is a room with a special door. This is where she locks up her fear, and slams the door behind her.

I watched with awe as she poured her heart into this journal. Each new idea for her ‘Fear Journal’ brought a huge grin to her face. For about a week, we had smiles at night instead of tears. It wasn’t the end of the night terrors altogether, but it was a start. Not only was this a creative exercise, it was empowering. Genna took the initiative to solve her own problems, and she did it in an environment that was comforting for her: literature.
Here are eight great resources that might be just the thing to help your family’s reading, writing, communicating and creating needs.

**Online extras**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Write</th>
<th>Create</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Read along at Toy Theater while you listen to the <em>Tale of Mr Jeremy Fisher</em> by Beatrix Potter.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Write a picture book of your own, using free illustrations, at Storybird.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Read about baby animals and the latest births at Zoo Borns - a must read for kids who love cute!</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Use Spell with Flickr to generate pictures of letters - for story starters, for projects, for names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Play Boggle online - 3 minutes to find as many words as you can.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kerpoof encourages kids to write, in order to make movies, cards and books, and to create art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ziggity Zoom has lots of ideas for parents of preschoolers, including recycled crafts.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Donate rice grains at Free Rice while older kids increase their word power.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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We encourage our children to be involved in activities that support their literacy.

We read to our children every day, because it is one of the very best things we can do for them.

We talk with, read with, sing to, dance with, love and respect our children. We help our children learn to read so they can read to learn.

We create a rich and varied literacy environment for our children.

We let our children catch us reading, writing and creating in our everyday lives, so they can see it is both natural and fun.

We believe that stories encourage dreams, and reading helps kids make their dreams come true.

Literacy is the Magical Key to a child’s future success! ~Susan Stephenson
Writing Prompts

Stumped for story writing ideas? Choose one element from the character column, one element from the setting column and one from the problem column to inspire your story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A boy with a pet duck</td>
<td>A small town with no water</td>
<td>An emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A grandmother who loves chocolate</td>
<td>The supermarket</td>
<td>Aliens invade Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone with special powers</td>
<td>Disneyland</td>
<td>There's a thief on the loose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A teacher who can fly</td>
<td>A snowy mountain</td>
<td>Somebody is in a car crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A wizard who's run out of magic</td>
<td>A school</td>
<td>An earthquake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Thumb</td>
<td>The park</td>
<td>A wild dog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you’ve finished your story, why not publish it?

This Literacy Lava Activity Page was created by Susan Stephenson, the Book Chook. Like all of Literacy Lava, it is able to be freely copied, distributed and transmitted, as is, with attribution, and without altering it in any way. Literacy Lava is licensed under Creative Commons, Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 2.5 Australia

This third issue of Literacy Lava was published in December 2009, with information that's timeless!