Parent Literacy Guidebook

For parents of children who are learning to read
Inside this book:

Introduction .............................................................. Page 3
Reading and Writing at Home ........................................ Page 4-5
Learning Leblango is Important ................................. Page 6-7
Developing Listening Skills for Reading ...................... Page 8-9
Developing Visual Skills for Reading ......................... Page 10-11
The Revised Leblango Orthography ............................ Page 12-13
The Leblango Alphabet ............................................. Page 14-15
The Six Handwriting Skills ......................................... Page 16-17
Helping Your Child Learn the Letters ......................... Page 18-19
How to Read or Spell any Word in Leblango .............. Page 20-21
The Big Benchmarks .................................................. Page 22-23
Assessing Your Child at Home ................................. Page 24-25
Conclusion ............................................................... Page 26

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/
Welcome!

My name is Teacher Maria. I have written this book for parents with children in P1 to P3. These are the most important years of primary school because they are the years your children are taught to read and write. If children don’t master reading and writing by the end of P3, they will have a difficult time going forward. Following the directions in this book will help you give your child the two most important keys to success in school: reading and writing.
Reading and Writing at Home

What activities can I encourage at home that will help my child learn to read and write?

That is the letter B!

Man. U will play today at...

Which animal is in this picture?
Learning to read and write is a big task. You can’t leave the job up to the teachers at school alone. You need to support your children at home as well.

Look at the family in this picture. What activities are they doing? How do these activities support reading and writing?

Once upon a time...
Why is it important that children first learn to read and write in Leblango?

Asking a young child to learn to read and write AND asking them to do it in English is like asking them to carry two big, heavy jerry cans.

Learning to read and write is hard. It takes years to master.
Learning English is another heavy task.

Many children become exhausted trying to carry both jerry cans at once, and give up on school.
Let your child learn to read and write in Leblango first. Then they can focus on English.

It’s also important that children learn in their home language. Look at the two classrooms below. Which children are engaged and excited about learning?

You only have to learn to read and write once. After you master it, you can use that skill for any language.

Name 3 domestic animals.

Tuc nyin leyi adek me paco.

Pwany o Lëbmunu

Pwany o Lëblango
This is a sewing machine. Can you say sewing machine?

Tell me again, the tongue twister you learned at school.

Sally sells seashells by the seashore.

That is a sewing machine. What’s it for, daddy?

Part of reading is being able to hear and repeat the sounds of the letters. You can help your child in 2 ways.

1. Ask them to listen carefully and identify individual sounds.
2. Ask them to imitate the sounds and words they hear.

Look at the parents in this market. Even when they are doing their daily tasks, they are helping their children develop their listening skills.
Developing Listening Skills for Reading

How are listening skills related to learning to read? What can you do as a parent to help your child develop the listening skills they need to be good readers?

Close your eyes and tell me all of the different sounds you can hear.

I can hear a motorcycle, and a goat, and the wind in the tree...

What does a goat say?

A goat says “maa, maa.”

Row row row your boat...

gently down the stream...
Developing Visual Skills for Reading

What can you do to help your child develop the visual skills they need to be good readers?

In order to read, your child needs to develop their ability to see the differences in individual letters. On this page I have four games you can play with your children. The games will help improve their ability to focus on details. Mango Tree also has a book called *Preparing to Read* that has many excellent visual puzzles.

What is Different?

Collect some small objects from around the house: a cup, spoon, flower, slipper, knife, comb, mirror, fork, etc. Arrange them in front of you. Tell your children to close their eyes. Remove one object. Now, eyes open! Can they identify which object is missing? When they get good at this, remove one object and change the position of another. Can they identify each change you’ve made?
Memory Game
Lay a deck of playing cards out with the numbers hidden. Take turns picking two cards. If the numbers match, keep them. The person with the most matches wins.

Odd One Out
Pick two letters that look similar, like a and u. Write one letter three times. Write the other letter one time. Show your child. Can they quickly point to the letter that is different?

Find the Hidden Object
Take turns hiding a small object like a spoon in plain sight. See how quickly you can find it. The one who finds it is the next one to hide it.

“Preparing to Read”
Mango Tree has a book of puzzles that will help your child develop the visual skills they need for reading text.
The Revised Leblango Orthography

Why did the orthography need to be improved? What do the dots on the vowel letters mean?

People had difficulty reading Leblango. Leblango has many vowel sounds, but in the past there were not enough letters to represent all the sounds. Read the letter written in the old orthography. Can you understand the meaning? Can you see how the reader may get confused?

Dear Grandfather,

You forgot your mudfish/walking stick. Patrick is bringing it with this letter. He told me he wants to see a palm tree/firefly. Please don’t forget to tell him the story about the elephant and hare that ate wild fruits and became friends/got drunk.
Heavy vowels are vowels made by the tongue moving forward and light vowels are made by the tongue moving backward. Leblango uses two dots to mark light vowels. Now read the letter again with the vowels marked correctly. Is it easier to understand the writer’s meaning?

Dear Grandfather,

You forgot your **walking stick**. Patrick is bringing it with this letter. He told me he wants to see a **palm tree**. Please don’t forget to tell him the story about the elephant and hare that ate wild fruits and became **friends**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heavy</th>
<th>Light</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A a</td>
<td>É ê</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E e</td>
<td>Ė ē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I i</td>
<td>Ė ē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O o</td>
<td>Ö ö</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U u</td>
<td>Ü ü</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cal</td>
<td>mër</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mer</td>
<td>otït</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>otït</td>
<td>kot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kot</td>
<td>lüt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aa</td>
<td>Bb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abolo</td>
<td>bul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ëe</td>
<td>Gg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cël</td>
<td>gali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kk</td>
<td>Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kwëri</td>
<td>lëe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ny ny</td>
<td>Oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nyanyan</td>
<td>obwöl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tt</td>
<td>Uu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tandaro</td>
<td>wudu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lebango has 25 letters of the alphabet. There are 9 vowels and 16 consonants. Each letter has a name. Each letter also makes its own sound.

For the vowel letters, the name and sound are the same. For the consonant letters, the name always adds the “ah” sound at the end.

The sound a consonant makes can be different from the name. For example, the name of this letter (M) is pronounced “mah” but the sound it makes is “mmm” like you are humming a song.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels: Name of letter and sound of letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants: Name of letter and sound of letter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Six Handwriting Skills

How can you help your child with handwriting?

Handwriting is one of the most important skills your child must acquire in P1 and P2. It takes daily practice over two years to become competent. You can help your child at home once you understand the six basic handwriting skills.

1. Sitting Posture

Your child should sit up straight with their feet flat on the floor. Shoulders and neck should be relaxed. Don’t hunch over the paper. Keep the elbow open. The writing motion should come from the shoulder, not the hand or elbow.

2. Pencil Grip

Use the thumb and first two fingers to hold the pencil as shown above. Don’t grip the pencil too tightly.

3. Stroke Direction

Just as children need to train their eyes to move from left to right as they read, they must also learn to train their hand to make stroke patterns that mainly move from left to right or from top to bottom.
4 Starting Point

Every letter has a starting point, the place where you begin writing the letter. In P1 your child will be learning the starting point for each letter.

5 Letter Formation

The Four Guidelines help your child form the letters correctly. Children must also know the stroke pattern for each letter.

6 Spacing

Spacing is the final handwriting skill your child must master. Spacing is usually emphasized more in P2, after children have mastered the formation of the individual letters.

If you’re feeling like handwriting is too complicated for you, don’t worry! Ask your child to show you what they’ve been learning in class. In teaching you about handwriting, your child will gain experience and confidence.
Helping Your Child Learn the Letters

How can I help my child learn the letters?

P1 is the year your child must learn all 25 letters in the Leblango Alphabet. The table on the right shows you when each letter is taught.

Here are some activities you can do with your children to help them learn the names of the letters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1-7</td>
<td>Aa, Nn, Cc, Oo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 8-11</td>
<td>Kk, Ii, Dd, Ww</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1-2</td>
<td>Öö, Œœ, Ee, Mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 3-4</td>
<td>Yy, Bb, Ny ny, Uu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 5-7</td>
<td>Gg, Ll, Pp, ïi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 8-11</td>
<td>Jj, Tt, Nŋ, Rr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Üü</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter Ü is the only new letter taught in Term 3. The rest of the term is review.

Finding Letters in the Environment:

Who can find the letter B?
Copying Letters:

Clay or Sorghum Letters:

“I spy with my little eye, something that begins with letter ___”
How to Read or Spell any Word in Leblango

What three skills does my child need in order to be able to read or write any word in Leblango?

1 Know the name and sound of every letter.

The letter name is “mah.”
It makes the sound “mmm.”

2 Blend the letter sounds together to make a word.

I will say three sounds.
You blend the sounds together to read a word.

s......u......n

s...u...n
I hear the word “sun”.

M m m
Your child needs three skills in order to read or spell any word in Leblango.

1. Your child needs to memorize the name and sound of every letter.
2. To read a word, your child needs to be able to blend the letter sounds in the word together.
3. To spell a word, your child needs to be able to hear and segment the individual sounds in a word.

3 Segment a word into sounds to spell each letter.

How many sounds do you hear in the word “cat”?

k...a...t
I hear three sounds.
What reading and writing skills should I expect my child to demonstrate by the end of each school year in P1 to P3?

In P1 to P3 there are certain key reading and writing competences your child is expected to master by the end of the year. If they don’t, they will fall behind and struggle to succeed. We call these key competences the **big benchmarks**.

You can help your child reach these benchmarks by the end of the school year. The next page provides you with some simple tests you can do at home to see how well your child is progressing.

**By the end of Primary 1...**

**Reading**

- I can read 30 letters in one minute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O</th>
<th>Ī</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>ĕ</th>
<th>I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>Œ</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Ny</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ë</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>wg</td>
<td>ū</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Ö</td>
<td>G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>ŋ</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>ī</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Writing**

- I can write my name with correct spelling and letter formation.

Opio Tom
By the end of Primary 2...

**Reading**

- I can read 30 words in one minute.

**Writing**

- I can write a 4-sentence story.

---

**Reading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>gwok</th>
<th>buke</th>
<th>lëlö</th>
<th>okot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bac</td>
<td>töl</td>
<td>opik</td>
<td>kom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>twön</td>
<td>apany</td>
<td>bac</td>
<td>tuko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pittö</td>
<td>yat</td>
<td>olarö</td>
<td>dyekal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opwö</td>
<td>cat</td>
<td>yea</td>
<td>pur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

By the end of Primary 3...

**Reading**

- I can read a 60-word story in one minute.

**Writing**

- I can write a 3-paragraph story.

---

**Reading**


---

**Writing**


Gin amé amarö a tēk obedo gëyø cal. An amarö polero gëyø cal afëkkë a tēkë Kede ön a dëng. Amarö déng gëyø cal ayele na kede cal jë ñ i pach wà.

Dikü maça ku adëgë amittë bedo agoëcal. An aøkkë biacara na a pira. An obedo danë alye Kede ñec n yikë çainpoc kede jami okëntë a bëcë.
Assessing Your Child at Home

How can I measure my child’s progress toward the Big Benchmarks?

Identify with the Names of the Letters in P1

Ask your child to point to a letter and say the name. How many letters can they name in one minute?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>c</th>
<th>o</th>
<th>k</th>
<th>i</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>w</th>
<th>ö</th>
<th>ë</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>ny</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>ï</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>η</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>ü</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>ü</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>Ė</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>Ny</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>Ī</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Ö</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>η</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Familiar Word Reading Test - Reading Benchmark in P2
Ask your child to point to a word and read it aloud.
How many words can they read in one minute?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>atat</th>
<th>aneno</th>
<th>numu</th>
<th>cat</th>
<th>acem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>okönö</td>
<td>kac</td>
<td>icök</td>
<td>dok</td>
<td>wic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>atëk</td>
<td>odero</td>
<td>wumu</td>
<td>bor</td>
<td>pacu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gudu</td>
<td>apwony</td>
<td>pïpïnö</td>
<td>gwok</td>
<td>icïna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tic</td>
<td>aŋïyö</td>
<td>oraŋŋa</td>
<td>ocwërö</td>
<td>pii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amük</td>
<td>lüt</td>
<td>lëë</td>
<td>pyen</td>
<td>apany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oral Reading Fluency Test - Reading Benchmark in P3
Ask your child to read this story aloud. Stop them after one minute. Count how many words they read. Ask questions about the story. Do they understand what they have read?

Tula gïn Awele


“Awële we, könya ba I wii më köŋ awot kede i myël?” Tula okobo.

"Tula gïn Awele të lökkö wii gi okö. Tula oruko will Awele, Awele daŋ i më a Tula."

“Awële ocïkö Tula ni büny dwogo piën nët wie ciërë okö."

Thank you for finishing this book. I hope you read it again many times and use it to assist your children. At school, your child has to share their teacher with many others. At home, your child will benefit from the attention you can give as an individual.

I encourage you to also attend the parents’ meetings at your school and if you have any concerns, visit the school and speak with your child’s teacher directly.

I used to fail to understand school, and reading seemed too difficult for me to learn. But now I am able to read and I learn much more quickly.

I wanted my child’s teachers for beginning this work, for me to continue at home to ensure my child will have the best opportunities possible in the world.

I struggled to make time for these activities, but once I began spending some minutes each day doing these things, my child began to read very well.

I love when my parents spend time with me and I’m grateful for their support in my studies.
Leblango Alphabet

Aa Aa Bb
Cc Dd Ee Ee
Gg Hh
Jj Kk Ll
Mm Nn Nn
Ny Ny Oo Oo Oo
Pp Rr Tt
Uu Üü Üü Ww
Yy