

FREE PARENT GUIDE

Is Your Child Ready for Year 3 & NAPLAN?

A practical guide to help parents understand Year 2 literacy milestones and how to prepare for the transition to Year 3 and NAPLAN.

Inside this guide:

- Year 2 Literacy Milestones
- Vocabulary Checklist
- Reading Comprehension Benchmarks
- Writing Expectations
- Preparing for Year 3 NAPLAN
- Home Learning Strategies

The Writing Club — Sydney's Writing Specialists

Welcome

Year 2 is a pivotal year — students move from learning the basics of writing to applying those skills independently, setting them up for Year 3 and their first NAPLAN assessment. This guide outlines the literacy milestones typical of Year 2, what to expect heading into Year 3, and practical ways to support your child's progress at home.

Year 2 Literacy Milestones

By the end of Year 2, most students are working towards the milestones below. These provide a general guide — every child progresses at their own pace.

- Writes well-formed sentences with correct capital letters, full stops and question marks
- Expands sentences using describing words, joining words and simple adverbs
- Plans and writes a short text with a clear beginning, middle and end
- Organises information under headings in a simple report
- Distinguishes between facts and opinions in texts
- Uses persuasive language to support a simple opinion with reasons
- Spells common and topic-specific words with increasing accuracy
- Edits and improves their own writing with guidance
- Reads a range of texts and answers literal and simple inferential questions
- Builds reading and writing stamina to complete longer tasks independently

Vocabulary Checklist

Strong vocabulary is the foundation for both reading comprehension and writing quality. By the end of Year 2, look for your child:

- Using a wider range of describing words (adjectives) and action words (verbs)
- Beginning to use topic-specific vocabulary when writing about a subject (e.g. science, animals, places)
- Understanding and using simple figurative language, such as similes
- Using joining words (and, but, because, so, when) to build longer sentences
- Using persuasive words and phrases (e.g. 'I believe', 'most importantly')

Reading Comprehension Benchmarks

- Reads a range of fiction and non-fiction texts with growing fluency and accuracy
- Answers literal questions (who, what, where, when, how many)
- Makes simple inferences about character feelings and motivations
- Identifies the main idea of a paragraph or short text
- Distinguishes between fact and opinion in a text
- Retells a text in sequence, including key details

Writing Expectations

- Plans writing using simple structures (introduction, body, conclusion)
- Writes across multiple text types: recounts, narratives, information reports, persuasive texts
- Uses paragraphs to organise ideas
- Applies grammar and punctuation conventions with increasing accuracy
- Edits writing for spelling, punctuation and clarity, with support

Preparing for Year 3 NAPLAN

NAPLAN begins in Year 3, but the skills it assesses — vocabulary, grammar, spelling, reading comprehension and writing — are built throughout Year 2. Key ways Year 2 supports NAPLAN readiness include:

- Regular exposure to assessment-style literacy tasks
- Practice writing within a structure and a time frame
- Building vocabulary and grammar accuracy through repeated practice
- Developing confidence with reading a range of text types

Home Learning Strategies

Read a variety of texts

Mix fiction with non-fiction (factual books, articles, recipes) to build both vocabulary and comprehension across text types.

Practise planning before writing

Before writing a story or report, ask your child to talk through or jot down their main ideas first. This mirrors the planning approach used in class.

Discuss fact vs opinion

When reading news, signs, or advertisements together, ask your child whether a statement is a fact or an opinion, and why.

Encourage self-editing

After writing, ask your child to read their work aloud and check for capital letters, full stops, and whether their sentences make sense.

Build topic vocabulary

When learning about a topic (animals, space, weather), make a list of new words together and use them in conversation and writing.

Practise under gentle time limits

Occasionally encourage your child to write for a set time (e.g. 10 minutes) to build writing stamina and confidence for future assessment tasks.

Not Sure Where Your Child Currently Stands?

Book a complimentary assessment valued at \$150 and receive personalised feedback on your child's literacy development.

45–60 minute assessment	Detailed learning report	Personalised learning plan
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Contact The Writing Club — Castle Hill & Thornleigh — (02) 8124 6187