

# PARENT LITERACY GUIDEBOOK

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE LEARNING TO READ



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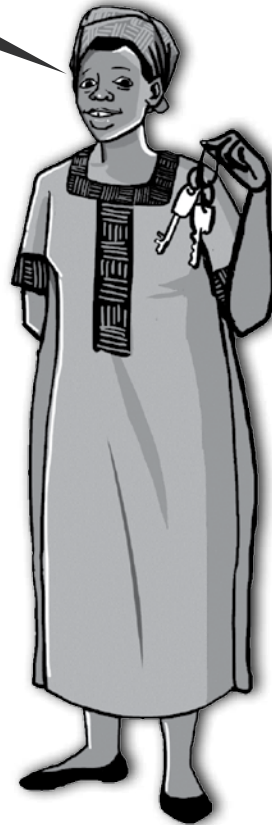
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## Welcome!

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?



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?



Teacher!  
Teacher!

Which pupil  
knows the  
name of this  
letter?

Once upon  
a time...

# Learning Leblango is Important



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.



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

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?

Name 3 domestic animals.



**Pwany o Lëbmunu**

Tuc nyiņ leyi adek me paco.



**Pwany o Lëblaņo**



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

Sally sells  
seashells by the  
seashore.



This is a sewing  
machine. Can you say  
sewing machine?

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?



# 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”

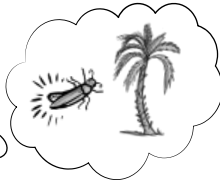
Mango Tree has a book of puzzles that will help your child develop the visual skills they need for reading text.

# The Revised Leblango Orthography

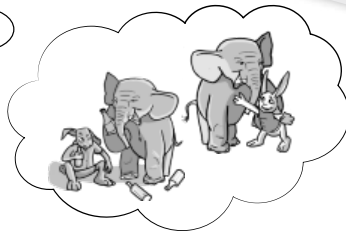
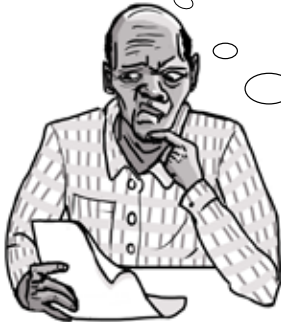


Why did the orthography need to be improved?  
What do the dots on the vowel letters mean?

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**.

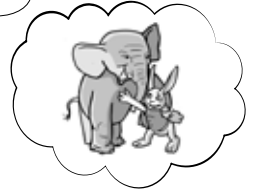
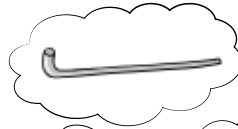




Heavy vowels are vowels made by the tongue moving forward and light vowels are made by the tongue moving backward. Leblango uses two dots to mark light vowels. Now read the letter again with the vowels marked correctly. Is it easier to understand the writer's meaning?

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**.



### The Leblango Vowels

#### Heavy

A a cal  
E e mer  
I i otit  
O o kot  
U u lut


























#### Light

Ě ě mër  
Ï ï otit  
Ö ö köt  
Ü ü lüt



# Nukutae me Lëblaŋo



<p>Aa</p>  <p>abolo</p>	<p>Bb</p>  <p>bul</p>	<p>Cc</p>  <p>cem</p>	<p>Dd</p>  <p>dërö</p>	<p>Ee</p>  <p>enaga</p>
<p>Ëë</p>  <p>cël</p>	<p>Gg</p>  <p>gali</p>	<p>Ii</p>  <p>iwalo</p>	<p>Ïï</p>  <p>otit</p>	<p>Jj</p>  <p>jokon</p>
<p>Kk</p>  <p>kwëri</p>	<p>Ll</p>  <p>lëë</p>	<p>Mm</p>  <p>moggo</p>	<p>Nn</p>  <p>nati</p>	<p>Ŋŋ</p>  <p>ŋwën</p>
<p>Ny ny</p>  <p>nyanyan</p>	<p>Oo</p>  <p>obwöl</p>	<p>Öö</p>  <p>öt</p>	<p>Pp</p>  <p>puc</p>	<p>Rr</p>  <p>rio</p>
<p>Tt</p>  <p>tandaro</p>	<p>Uu</p>  <p>wudu</p>	<p>Üü</p>  <p>lüt</p>	<p>Ww</p>  <p>wan</p>	<p>Yy</p>  <p>yat</p>

# The Leblango Alphabet



What is the difference between the name of a letter and the sound of a letter?

Leblango 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.



## Vowels: Name of letter and sound of letter

a	e	ë	i	ï	o	ö	u	ü
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## Consonants: Name of letter and sound of letter

<b>Name</b>	ba	ca	da	ga	ja	ka	la	ma	na	ŋa	ny	pa	ra	ta	wa	ya
<b>Sound</b>	b	c	d	g	j	k	l	m	n	ŋ	ny	p	r	t	w	y

# The Six Handwriting Skills

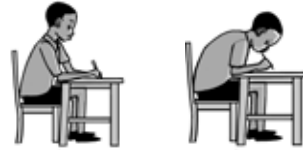


How can you help your child with handwriting?



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



*Good*

*Bad*

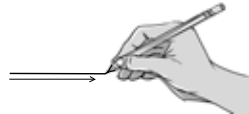
Your child should sit up straight with their feet flat on the floor. Shoulders and neck should be relaxed. Don't hunch over the paper. Keep the elbow open. The writing motion should come from the shoulder, not the hand or elbow.

## 2 Pencil Grip



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

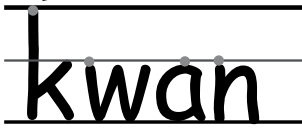
## 3 Stroke Direction



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.



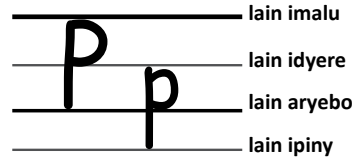
## 4 Starting Point



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

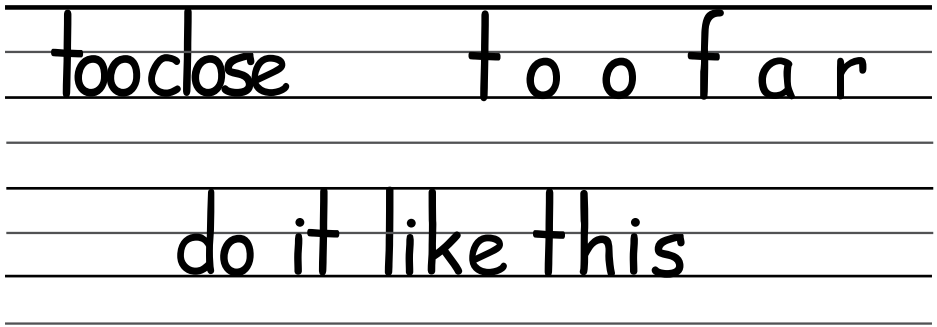
### THE FOUR GUIDELINES



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.



TERM 1	
Weeks 1-7	Aa, Nn, Cc, Oo
Weeks 8-11	Kk, Ii, Dd, Ww
TERM 2	
Weeks 1-2	Öö, Ëë, Ee, Mm
Weeks 3-4	Yy, Bb, Ny ny, Uu
Weeks 5-7	Gg, Ll, Pp, İi
Weeks 8-11	Jj, Tt, Ŋŋ, Rr
TERM 3	
Week 2	Üü
Letter Ü is the only new letter taught in Term 3. The rest of the term is review.	

**Finding Letters in the Environment:**

 A black and white illustration of a street scene. On the left, there is a building labeled 'BANK' and a sign for 'LANGO SUPERMARKET'. In the middle, there is a 'NO PARKING' sign with a red circle and a diagonal line. On the right, there is a sign for 'MOBILE MONEY'. A person is walking on the sidewalk, and a person is riding a bicycle on the road. In the foreground, a woman is walking with two children. A speech bubble from the children says, "Who can find the letter B?".

**Copying Letters:**



**Guess the Letter:**



**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."

**M m**

**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".



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.



# The Big Benchmarks



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...

I can read 30 letters in one minute.



O	ï	C	b	g	ë	I
W	m	ö	J	P	Ny	A
Ë	K	R	t	M	wg	ü
e	j	a	r	T	Ö	G
p	i	η	d	ï	L	E

Reading

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

Opio Tom



Writing

## By the end of Primary 2...

I can read 30 words in one minute.



gwok	buke	lëlö	okot
bac	töl	opik	kom
twön	apany	bac	tuko
püttö	yat	olarö	dyekal
opwö	cat	yea	pur

Reading

I can write a 4-sentence story.



Ojok tye anënnö gar. Ocaak tye anënnö gar. Ocen oparö nënnö gar. Ocen anënnö gar ka owoto Kampala.

Writing

## By the end of Primary 3...

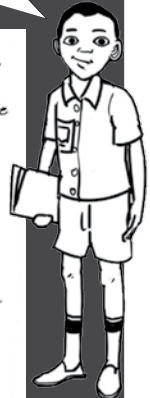
I can read a 60-word story in one minute.



Tula gïn Awele rik obedo owote. Gïn rik omarö myël twatwal. Anyira onwoño pe marö Tula. Gïn onwoño okobo nï wii Tula dit te pëk. "Awele we, kõnya ba i wii me kõj awot kede i myël?" Tula okobo. Tula gïn Awele te lökkö wii gï okö. Tula oruko wii Awele, Awele dañ i me a Tula. Awele ocikö Tula nï büny dwogo piën njit wie cïrë okö.

Reading

I can write a 3-paragraph story.



An nyiga Opio Tom. Onywala i calo Aber i mwaka 2010. Baba na nyinö Okello Brian äka mama na nyigë Acen Alice. Atye Kede omege na aryö a dögö kedde aminna a tidï acel.

Gin amë amarö a tëk obedo göyö cal. An amarö pollere göyö cal ofökki a tinö Kede en a dögö. Amarö dañ göyö cale owote na kede cal jö i paca wa.

Diki maca ka adögö amittö bedo agöö cal. An acakkö biacara na a pira. An abedo danö atye Kede hec i yikkö cainpoc Kede jami okëñ a bëcö.

Writing

# Assessing Your Child at Home



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



Here are three simple reading assessments you can give your child. Each corresponds to a big benchmark in P1-P3.

Be positive and supportive when you assess your child. Give your child suggestions for making improvements. Take time to work with them at home.



## 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?

A	N	c	o	k	i	D	w	ö	ë
E	M	y	B	ny	U	g	L	p	ï
J	t	ŋ	R	ü	a	O	K	C	ü
b	n	W	I	Y	d	m	Ë	P	U
G	r	Ny	e	Ï	T	Ö	j	l	ŋ





## 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?

atat	aneno	numu	cat	acem
okönö	kac	icök	dok	wic
atëk	odero	wumu	bor	pacu
gudu	apwony	pïpïnö	gwok	icîna
tic	anjyö	oraŋŋa	ocwërö	pii
amük	lüt	lëë	pyen	apany



## 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

*Tula gïn Awele rik obedo owote. Gïn rik omaro myël twatwal.  
Anyira onwoŋo pe marö Tula. Gïn onwoŋo okobo ni wii Tula dit të pëk.*

*“Awele we, kõnya ba I wii më kõŋ awot kede i myël?” Tula okobo.*

*Tula gïn Awele të lökkö wii gï okö. Tula oruko will Awele, Awele  
daŋ i më a Tula.*

*Awele ocikö Tula ni büny dwogo piën ŋit wie cîrë okö.*

*Tula onyönö myël a wie owil okö. Wii Tula ocîrö Awele a pe twërë.  
Awele të cakkö wer. “Mon a woto ni kobbi Tula dwoggo wia. Wii Tula  
pëk ocîra okö bedo ni lugu.”*

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 want to thank 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 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 love when my parents spend time with me and I'm grateful for their support in my studies.



# Leblango Alphabet





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