

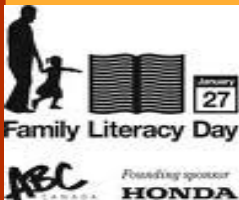
Early Literacy Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Family Literacy Day is Thursday January 27th, 2011
- Join us for celebrations at the South River EYP on Thursday January 27th from 10am until Noon and at the Parry Sound Mall on Saturday January 29th from 10am until Noon



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Learning to Write

Literacy development involves a child's active engagement in cooperation and collaboration with their peers. Literacy development builds on what the child already knows and grows with the support and guidance of trusted adults in the child's life. Play provides the setting for literacy development.

When it comes to the development of writing skills, children need lots of opportunities to experiment with writing materials such as crayons, markers, pens, pencils, and paint. Scribbling is the first step in learning to write. This pretend writing is very important. It shows that your child understands that marks on paper can be used to communicate with those around them.

A child's name is often the first word that he/she learns to write. Sign your child's name on drawings, books and other possessions to help them learn to recognize it. You can also encourage your child to sign their own name. Don't worry if it isn't neat or correct. That will come in time with lots of practice! Please do not teach your child to print

their name in all upper case letters. This will make it more difficult for the child when he or she will be required at school to write in both upper and lower case letters. Do teach the child to write his or her name starting with an upper case letter and following with lower case letters. Ask your child to read his or her writing back to you and always encourage them to write more.

Drawing and painting is also a good step to writing. It will help your child develop the eye-

hand coordination needed to hold a pencil and write later on. Keep scrap paper, crayons, markers, paint and paintbrushes, chalk and chalk boards around the house for your child to use. Old envelopes and 'junk mail' are great to recycle for children's writing.

Children should be given daily opportunities to use pens, pencils, crayons and markers. These experiences will assist them in developing the fine motor coordination that will be required when they enter the school system and begin to learn to write formally.



How to Read to Me!



Read everywhere!

Here are some tips to assist you in providing a positive and productive time for reading together at home:

- Set aside time to read and don't do other things at that time. Give your full attention to your child.
- Don't read too long. Ten minutes is fine but if your child is interested, keep reading! If your child gets bored, do something else. Read later or try a different book.
- Let your child turn the pages. This is how he or she begins to understand how a book works.
- Sit your child on your lap or cuddle close. Make reading special and have fun!



What is Social/Emotional Development?

Social and emotional development focuses on many different skills. Things like identity formation, self-esteem, positive self-concept, recognizing and expressing emotions, forming friendships, cooperation and empathy towards others.

In the first year of a child's life, they begin to explore their world—that includes themselves and others. They also spend a lot of time getting to know their bodies. They begin to recognize their primary caregivers, and also begin to initiate social interactions with others by smiling, responding to their own name, laughing and playing simple games such as peek-a-boo. As they get closer to one year of age, babies will start to feed themselves with their fingers, mimic simple actions, hold out their arms while being dressed, and show anxiety when separated from a primary caregiver. This

is self-regulation. They are beginning to become more aware of themselves and their ability to make things happen. At this stage they can recognize themselves in a mirror, play by themselves, show affection for other familiar people and show a strong sense of self when directing those around them to meet their needs.

By age two, they begin to experience themselves as more powerful, creative "doers" and expand their self-help skills. Self-regulation skills become a challenge at this age and temper tantrums are likely to occur, mostly because of their inability to communicate through talking. They begin to show awareness of boys vs. girls, indicate toileting needs, help to dress and undress themselves, and show awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others. They also begin to watch other children play and may even join in.

They start to defend their own toys, and will participate in short group activities.

By age three they are becoming more independent and are able to follow simple directions, share toys, take turns with assistance, start to pretend during play, and begin to compare themselves to others around them, for example, eye and hair color.

Four year olds are very interested in relationships with others and begin to develop friendships, express more awareness of other people's feelings, and, enjoy imaginative play with others, enjoy dressing up in adult clothing.



What is Literacy?



Literacy is the ability to understand and use printed material at work, at home, at school, and in your community.

Family Literacy is a community-based effort to promote and support the literacy of children. It also promotes life-long learning within the family and the community. Family literacy builds stronger families and healthier communities. The family is the child's first teacher and continues to educate the child throughout life. Family literacy includes the many ways that adults use literacy and language in everyday situations. Family literacy is not just about reading and writing.

Every family has their own literacy practices like:

- *walking up stairs and counting as you go
- *telling stories
- *singing
- *pointing out street signs
- *cooking from a cook book
- *reading out loud from a newspaper or magazine

Learning takes place everyday as a part of family life. Promoting literacy learning in your home is important because it promotes reading as a valued family activity, helps parents support their children's language and literacy development, provides preschool children with activities that help them prepare for school, and involves parents in all aspects of their children's development and education.

Early literacy skills are the foundation for all future learning. Since parents and family members are the child's first teachers, they help develop positive attitudes toward learning. Families lay the founda-

tion for life-long learning before children enter school. Schools build on this foundation.

Materials That Will Promote Family Literacy Learning In Your Home

- Newspapers and magazines
- Small pencils, small crayons, and Crayola Pip-squeak markers for little hands
- Scrap paper, notepads and sticky notes
- Children's books, either purchased or borrowed from the local library
- Books made by your children
- Labels and bins on toy storage areas or to identify ownership of clothing other items
- Puppets
- Dress-up clothing
- Family Photo Albums
- Magnetic letters and numbers for the fridge (*remember small magnets can be swallowed by young children and cause major health problems)
- Calendars with special events written on them
- Children's art work with sentences written by the child or adult telling what is happening in the picture

Songs and Rhymes that Support Social-Emotional Development

Punchinello

What can you do Punchinello funny fellow? What can you do Punchinello funny you?

Child claps hands, jumps up and down, turns around etc.

I can do it to Punchinello funny fellow! I can do it to Punchinello funny you!

These are Sarah's Fingers

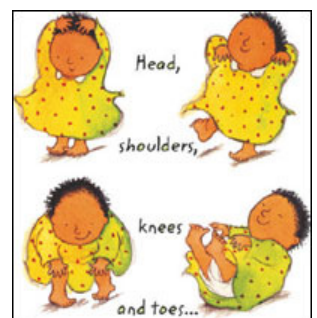
These are "Sarah's" fingers
 These are Sarah's toes
 This is Sarah's belly button
 Round and round it goes!



If You're Happy and You Know It

Tony Chestnut

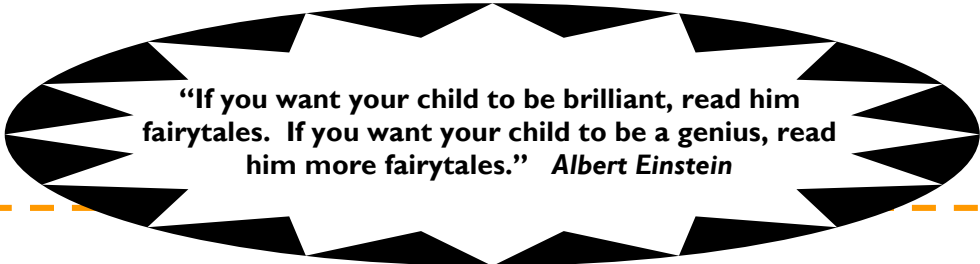
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Dawn Maeck, Early Literacy Specialist for the District of Parry Sound

37 Main Street
Sundridge ON
POA 1Z0
dmaeck@handstfhn.ca
(705) 384-0160 ext. 2236
1-800668-8555



Early Literacy Specialist Winter Book Picks

