



Saskatchewan Literacy Network

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For the **LOVE** of Reading

A family's
special journey
of growing
and learning

www.sk.literacy.ca

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Introduction

This resource is for anyone who works with and cares for young children. The word "parent" is inclusive of all those who contribute to the development and lifelong learning of children.

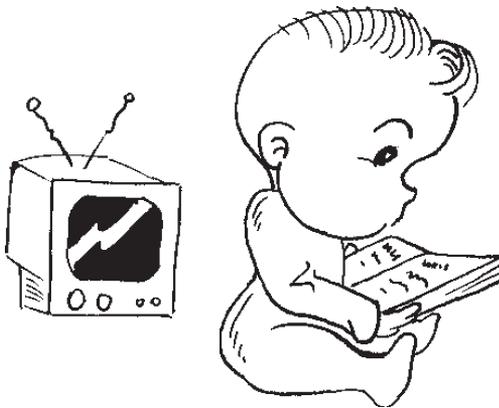
Remember that no two children are alike. No two parents are alike. Your child will learn and grow at his own pace.

Parents are a child's most important teachers. As your child's first teacher, you can provide opportunities that will give your child a love of reading. Read to your child every day. Let your child see you reading.

This booklet gives a few suggestions on how to help your child discover the love of reading. It also lets you as a parent know why you are so important in the life of your child.

"We teach our children many things; most of all, we can teach children the fun of growing and learning together."

Open Doors to Family Literacy Project, YWCA of Prince Albert



How to help your child learn:

Talk about what you are doing

Look your child in the eyes

Listen as your child talks

Read to your child each day

Then talk about the story

Praise your child

Share one new word, song, craft or activity every day



Open Doors to Family Literacy Project, YWCA of Prince Albert

Tips on Reading Aloud

- ☺ Make reading fun
- ☺ Take 15 minutes every day to read to your child
- ☺ Talk about who wrote and illustrated the story
- ☺ Read slowly with lots of expression
- ☺ Help your child relate to the story by asking questions like: "How would you feel if...?" or "What would you do if...?"

How can you get books?

- ☺ Borrow them from the library
- ☺ Borrow them from a friend
- ☺ Buy them from a store
- ☺ Order them from book catalogues
- ☺ Buy them from garage sales or flea markets
- ☺ Suggest books as gifts from family and friends
- ☺ Make your own

Babies to one year old

Parenting and literacy

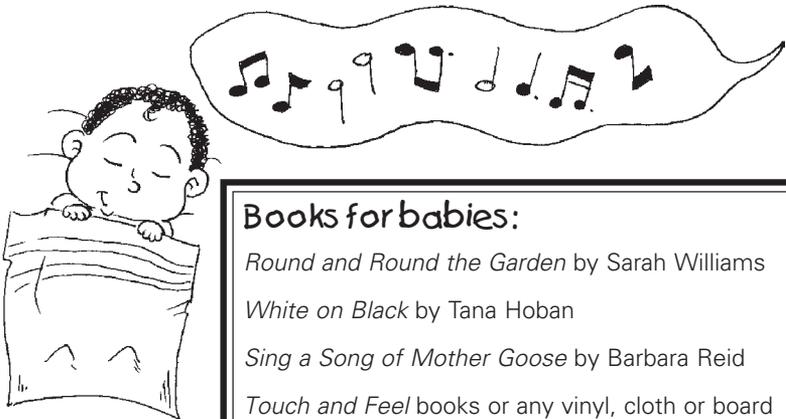
Your baby loves to be held and talked to in a gentle voice. Watch how your baby responds. She will let you know how she feels with her body and her face. You can introduce your baby to reading and books right away. Since your baby loves the sound of your voice, it is a good time to tell stories and sing songs to her. It is not important that you sing well but it is important that you sing.

Babies learn through all their senses: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. Grasping and chewing are important ways for your child to learn about the world around her.

Repeat, repeat, repeat an activity with your child because this is how she learns.

Any time is a good time to talk or sing with your baby: bath time, changing her diapers, feeding her, or when she wakes in the middle of the night. Singing to your baby is calming for baby and for you.

Don't play with babies all the time. They need to have time to themselves. Quiet cuddle time is good at bedtime.



Books for babies:

Round and Round the Garden by Sarah Williams

White on Black by Tana Hoban

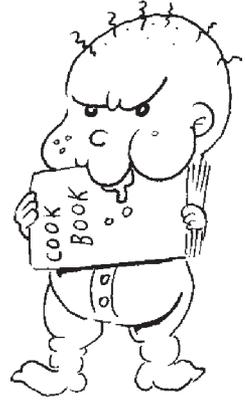
Sing a Song of Mother Goose by Barbara Reid

Touch and Feel books or any vinyl, cloth or board book

A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ books with pictures and bright colours
- ☺ chewing everything
- ☺ listening to you sing and talk



I feel special when:

- ☺ you sing your own songs and tell me nursery rhymes over and over again
- ☺ you play finger, toe and body word games with me
- ☺ you give me vinyl, cloth and board books to look at and chew
- ☺ you tell me what we are doing and what you see around us



Toddlers - Ages one and two

Parenting and Literacy

Toddlers learn a lot in a very short period of time. What a great time to introduce them to the world around them!

Toddlers love stories about themselves, especially stories about what they are doing. They like stories about washing the dishes, putting on their shoes, going shopping. They will love story time, especially if you read books with big words like **"BAM"** and **"ROAR"** and **"WE ALL FALL DOWN"**.

Children love "lift the flap" books. They may need your guidance to care for books. Treat books well and children will copy you.

BAM! ROAR!



Books for toddlers:

When Mama Comes Home Tonight by Eileen Spinelli

I See by Helen Oxenbury

Where's Spot by Eric Hill

Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

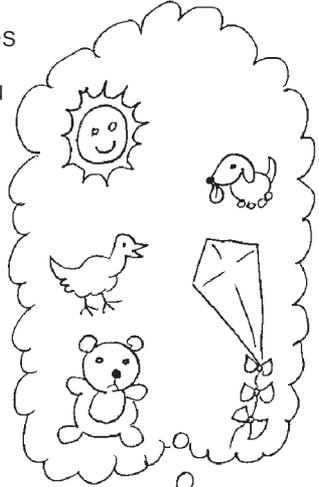
Do You Want to be My Friend? by Eric Carle

Touch and Feel books, any chubby or board book

A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ to learn new sounds and new words
- ☺ to play singing and clapping games
- ☺ to hear stories and songs that you make up
- ☺ to look at picture books at home and on the go



I feel special when:

- ☺ you name things and people around me
- ☺ you show me how to gently turn the pages
- ☺ you read to me and let me turn the pages
- ☺ you ask me simple questions as you read
- ☺ you have books in the car, in the diaper bag and by the bed



Preschool - Three years old

Parenting and literacy

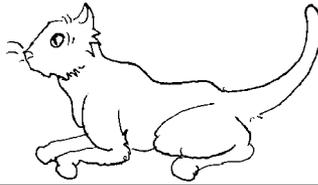
Your child has accomplished a lot and is developing many new skills and abilities. He is beginning to feel very independent. Your child will love to explore the world. Every corner you and your child turn will be a great adventure.

Your child's attention span is growing, so he can spend more time listening to you read to him. Bring books to life by acting out the story or giving voice to the characters.

Children like repetition and parts of the story they can join in "reading", for example "I think I can, I think I can" from ***The Little Engine That Could***.

Provide crayons, pencils, paper, scissors, glue sticks and other materials for children to use.

Have newspapers to cover the floor when using glue and paints, so there is less mess to clean up.



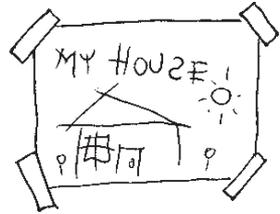
Books for three-year-olds:

- Clap Your Hands* by L. Bryan Cauly
- Going on a Bear Hunt*, by M. Rosen and H. Oxenbury
- The Wheels on the Bus* by S. Wickstrom
- Brave Bear* by K. Mallet
- Mama Mama* by J. Marzollo
- Where the Wild Things Are* by M. Sendak
- Sandra Boynton books
- Any fairy tale book

A message from your child:

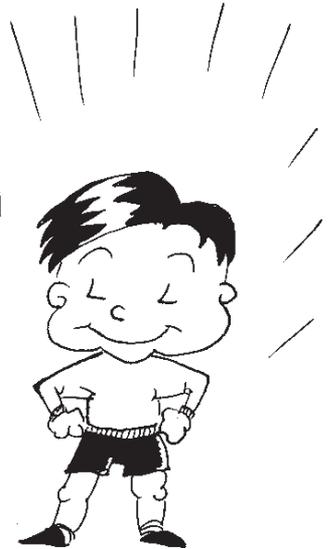
I love:

- ☺ to learn and do finger plays and action rhymes
- ☺ to sing songs
- ☺ to play pretend games
- ☺ to hear fairy tales and fantasy stories
- ☺ to hear about animals doing things my family and I might do
- ☺ to be silly
- ☺ to try to use crayons, pencils, scissors, etc.



I feel special when:

- ☺ we take trips to the library
- ☺ we explore our world and the world around us together
- ☺ we talk about the pictures
- ☺ we act out parts of the story
- ☺ I see my art work hanging on the fridge
- ☺ we make and do things together



Four years old

Parenting and literacy

The four-year-old child's world is expanding. She is pushing the boundaries of everything and will ask endless questions. What an opportunity to teach your child what her place is in the world! This can be done through your family stories, photo albums and books about other people, places and things.

Some four-year-olds have a lot of fears. They like hearing about scary or silly situations that end safely. Take time to comfort your child when she is scared.

Your child needs simple, predictable, repetitive stories so she can repeat them and "read" the story to you. Even though your child's attention span is increasing, she still needs short stories with lots of action.

Let your child know that other people have the same experiences she does. Help her see the difference between imagination and reality.

Begin collecting recyclable materials for making crafts with your child.



Books for four-year olds:

I Love You Stinky Face by Lisa McCourt

Love You Forever by Robert Munsch

Franklin in the Dark by P. Bourgeois and B.Clark

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Amos's Sweater by Janet Lunn and Kim LaFave

Clifford books by Norman Bridwell

Something From Nothing by Phoebe Gilman

A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ to tell stories and “read” books
- ☺ to be busy
- ☺ to go to places like the park or the mall
- ☺ to hear my favourite stories
- ☺ books about new and familiar things
- ☺ to play matching and simple board games
- ☺ to hear about silly things
- ☺ to see my name

I feel special when:

- ☺ you let me pick the story you will read to me
- ☺ you let me “read” to you
- ☺ you answer my endless questions, even if they seem silly to you
- ☺ you listen to me
- ☺ you play games with me
- ☺ you make crafts with me
- ☺ you help me learn my colours and numbers



Five year olds

Parenting and literacy

A five-year-old has a longer attention span than younger children and is ready to look at a wide variety of books. Your child can decide what he would like to read. This is the beginning of a child developing his own "taste" in books. The five-year-old is getting ready for school or is in school. Keep up your daily reading with your child, and soon, very soon, your child will be reading to you.

Start showing the words on a page to your child. Use his own words to make a story.

Let your child help when he can.

Take your child to the library and encourage him to borrow books from the school library as well.



Books for five-year-olds:

- My Dad Takes Care of Me* by Patricia Quinlan
- The Little Engine That Could* by Richard Scarry
- Clifford Makes a Friend* by Norman Bridwell
- Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus
- Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkma
- I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* by N. Bernard Westcott
- The Look Book* by Tana Hoban
- Two Pairs of Shoes* by Esther Sanderson
- Hey Little Ant* by Phil Hoose
- Lady With the Alligator Purse* by N. Westcott

A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ to make my own choices about what we read
- ☺ to tell stories about my world
- ☺ to use my imagination
- ☺ to help you cook and make special meals



I feel special when:

- ☺ you tell me stories using puppets and pictures
- ☺ you collect books for me
- ☺ you point words out to me
- ☺ you write the story I tell you
- ☺ I get my own library card
- ☺ you take the time to cook with me and help me read the recipe



The school-aged child—six to nine years old

Parenting and literacy

Your child is now going to school. Remain actively involved. Read to your reader. Let your reader read to you and to other family members.

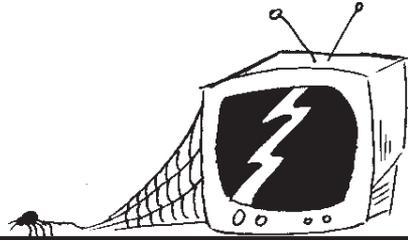
Know what is happening at school. Get to know your child's teachers. Volunteer. Ask questions. Show that education is important to you.

Balance is important. Remember that play is learning, too!

Limit TV time.

Have a centre with all the supplies your child needs to be creative.

Serve good food and see that your child eats enough. Make sure she has breakfast before going to school.



Books/Series/Authors for school-aged children

My Mom is So Unusual by Iris Loewen

My Kokum Called Today by Iris Loewen

Red Parka Mary by Peter Eyvindson

Amelia Bedelia series by Peggy and Herman Parish

Jillian Jiggs series by Phoebe Gillman

Berenstain Bears series by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Franklin series by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark

Arthur series by Mark Brown

books by Barbara Reid, Joy Berry, Jan Brett,
Robert Munsch, Eric Carle, Beverly Cleary

A message from your child:

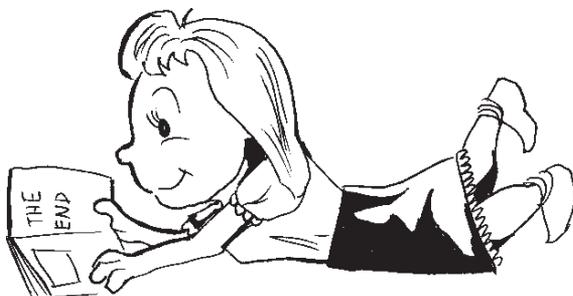
I love:

- ☺ to show and tell you everything I do at school
- ☺ to read books on my own and with you
- ☺ to try new things
- ☺ to know that you value my school and me



I feel special when:

- ☺ I see you at my school
- ☺ we read stories about kids like me
- ☺ you help me learn new things
- ☺ I have a time and a place to do my homework and I know you care
- ☺ you tell me that I'm doing well or you are proud of me and the work I'm doing
- ☺ you let me play and grow because I still need fun



If you think you are not a good reader:

- tell stories about your experiences and memories
- tell stories about the pictures in a book or photo album, making up the stories as you go along
- sing songs or recite nursery rhymes that you have learned
- get books on tape
- take your child to story time at your local library
- ask someone else to read to your child
- improve your own reading skills. Look in the yellow pages of the phone book under LEARN.
- contact the person or organization who gave you this booklet

Be gentle and patient, both with yourself and your child.