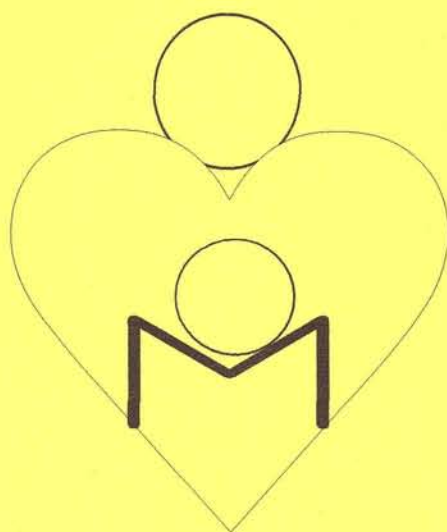


S.P.A.C.E

(Support for Parents and Children in Education)

Family Literacy Research Program



By

Krista G. Scott & Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres

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S.P.A.C.E. Family Literacy Research Program

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S.P.A.C.E. Family Literacy Research Program

Introduction

Support for Parents and Children in Education (S.P.A.C.E.) was a family literacy research project in rural Frontenac County. It was facilitated by The Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres (NCALC) in cooperation with, and funded by, the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation (FCFDC) through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF). The EODF was a 10-million dollar initiative announced by the Government of Canada last spring. EODF promotes socio-economic development in rural Eastern Ontario, contributes to the successful development of business and job opportunities as well as sustainable self-reliant communities, and will lead to a competitive and diversified regional economy.

Purpose

The purpose of the S.P.A.C.E. study was to determine, and examine, the supports needed by parents to be able to gain the skills and confidence necessary to deal with the various aspects of their children's education and to improve their literacy and numeracy. The study was based on the premise that there was a parental need for literacy supports and information in the communities. This project expected to confirm this belief. However, its further aims were to:

- Encourage family literacy in the homes of school aged children in rural Frontenac
- Determine the areas in which parents need support and specifics of those needs
- Provide educational and enjoyable family literacy-based events and workshops for community members at little-to-no charge.
- Enhance and establish new relationships between Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres and other local committees and organizations.
- Increase awareness of Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres, Community Futures Development Corporation and other project partners and the services that they provide.

In order to meet the objectives of the project, four key components were developed: partnerships, advertising, family literacy-based activities and data collection.

Partnerships

Partnerships were integral to this study. As a pilot project and working in a rural area, it made sense to work with as many established organizations as possible and to build on and learn from their expertise and base of clientele.

In varying degrees, to complete the S.P.A.C.E. project, Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres worked in direct partnership with:

- The Ontario Early Years Centre (The Child Centre) in Sharbot Lake
- The Olden Recreation Committee
- The North Frontenac Community Centre (arena at Piccadilly)
- The local schools, Parent Advisory Committees and staff of both the Limestone District School Board and the Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic School Board
- Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation (FCFDC)
- Rural VISIONS Centre
- Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Committee of North Frontenac
- Kingston Literacy

We also contacted the Kingston Frontenac Public Library to see if there was any possibility of working with them to host such events as story time with local authors and other celebrities, but, due to potential infringements on union rights, this was not possible.

Connecting with the local schools was the best way to reach families in rural Frontenac. Our interest surveys indicated that 25% of the parents who participated wanted to hear about events through the schools. Establishing partnerships with the schools, in the initial stages of the program was a key component to the success we've had. By gaining the support of the principals we were able to place the book-bins in their schools, send out flyers, submit information for their monthly newsletters, and attend their school functions in promotion of the S.P.A.C.E. program. Areas where we were unable to connect with the school staff or where they were not supportive had significantly less participation. This highlights the point that the more personal the contact made, the stronger and more effective the outcome.

Advertisement, Promotion & Publicity

Events and workshops were advertised in several different ways. We tried to make sure that a variety of methods were used to help determine which means worked best. A mini questionnaire was given at some of the events, asking participants how they found out about events and workshops (**see appendix 8**). There was also a section of the interest survey that asked parents how they would like to be notified about upcoming events and workshops.

We always tried to give notice in the local newspapers about upcoming events. Our survey indicated that this was the second most preferred method of notification, at 22%. We focused mainly on the Frontenac News, since this publication reached most of the area being targeted and it was more supportive than the Gazette, which reaches the southern part of Frontenac only. Free community events calendars, paid advertisements and newspaper articles were all used. The free community events calendar and local news portion of the newspaper were quite effective as these are sections regularly checked by many people. The paid advertisement for the reading strategies and scrapbooking workshops, held in Sharbot Lake, did not have as great an effect. In fact, not one person in attendance of these events came as a direct result of the paid ads.

We tried advertising events with some local radio stations. We used this method to promote the book swap events, but found that no one in attendance had heard these announcements. The positive thing about using local radio stations to advertise is that they have free broadcasting for non-profit organizations so it takes a few moments to submit an announcement, or to do a radio interview, and it does not cost a thing. The caution is that an organization should not depend on this as their sole method of advertisement. Additional study would also be necessary to determine who listens to what radio stations.

On March 9, all of the Youth Interns, who had been funded through the FCFDC gathered at the FCFDC site in Harrowsmith, where they were interviewed for CKWS News, the local television station out of Kingston. We had the chance to tell viewers about our program and what we had been working on, to date. Several people in the area have since commented on seeing us on TV, so this could prove to be a good way to get publicity for events, but requests for coverage must be made at least three weeks in advance of the event.



Posters hung in the community did not have much impact and perhaps only acted as reminders rather than a way to provide readers with new information. As it takes a significant amount of time, energy and travel costs to drive around and post flyers, this cannot be considered a cost-effective or efficient advertising method.

Word of mouth advertising still seems to be one of the most effective ways to reach people of rural Frontenac. We think that for a project such as this to be truly successful and worthwhile, the connections and networking has to not only be established, but also needs to

be maintained. This might mean continuing over a period of time to plan and host events and workshops, or continuing to partner with other organizations on activities that they run. Through the S.P.A.C.E. program the legwork has already been done and a base of contacts has been established. We have a number of parents who have given us their contact information and are willing to consider attending events and workshops. These are the people we can count on to talk to their friends, spreading the word about our family literacy programming.

Towards the end of the program word of mouth support began to occur in the way we had hoped it would. Two of the Scrapbooking Workshop participants who registered by email also signed up their friends whom they had told about the program. If we can keep this ripple effect going, where we reach the primary group of parents and caregivers through events, they get excited about the program and tell their friends, who in turn tell their friends, and so on. Eventually we will be reaching more of our target group.

Suggestions

- In the future, if we had to choose two or three forms of advertising, they would be: strengthening partnerships with local organizations, contacting families through the schools, and direct or word of mouth advertising.
- It was suggested that we should contact the boy scouts, cubs, and guides in the area to reach the parents. Another person suggested we invite the troops to an event in lieu of them holding a meeting that week.
- Make sure that you have good contact people when planning events. Get in touch with people who are active in the area.
- When planning a family event, try to get the children involved as much as possible by targeting your publicity towards them. If you can get them excited about something, like coming to an event, they'll help make sure the parents come too. Maybe even go into an assembly and pump up the events. This would have been a great way to promote the book swap events, had the opportunity presented itself.
- The more personal contact the better. Perhaps this is why email worked so well. Even if the person doesn't attend the event that you've contacted them about, they will at least be aware of the event and be reminded of the program. Perhaps they may even talk about it with their friends.

Activities

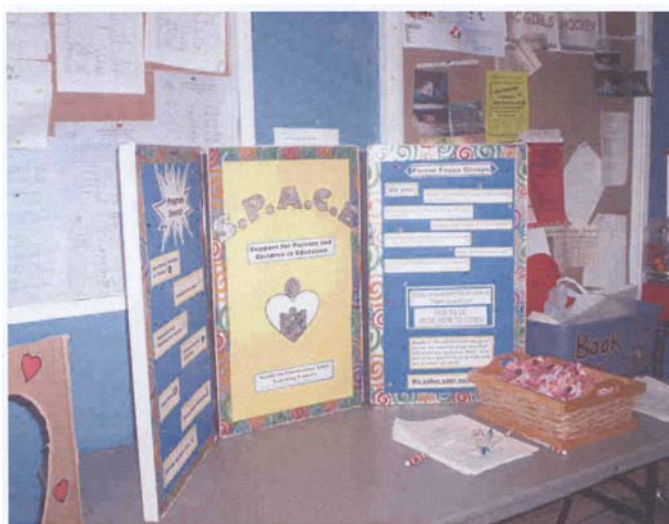
To distribute the surveys and gather information a number of events and workshops were planned in South, Central and North Frontenac. Especially in winter in rural communities, there are not always opportunities to connect with families on a consistent and wide-reaching basis. It was therefore built into the project that events would be planned, focusing on and promoting family literacy. Through these free events, we would also be encouraging family literacy, increasing awareness of our program, and providing a fun, safe atmosphere for families to learn together. Partnerships with other committees and organizations were key in making the events successful.

Some of the exciting events we organized were:

- Valentine Literacy Activity Afternoon at the Mountain Grove Hall in cooperation with the Olden recreation committee
- Breakfast and a Book at the Clar-Mills hall in cooperation with the Health, Postal Services, Recreation, and Culture Organization
- Book Swap at the arena in Piccadilly
- Winter Fun Day with the Ontario Early Years Centre - The Child Centre
- Reading Strategies Workshop with Debbie Nesbitt-Monroe of the Family Resource Centre
- Two Beginners Scrapbooking/Family History Workshops for Parents with Cindi Scott, Adolescent Care Worker at Sharbot Lake High School.

Family Literacy Day (Ontario Early Years Centre)

The first event, in which S.P.A.C.E. participated, was in partnership with the Ontario Early Years Centre for Family Literacy Day, on January 27, 2005.



In preparation for this event, we created a portable display board. This presentation included information about our program, events we had planned, funding information, and

encouraged parents to talk with staff about our program in general. We also finalized and made several copies of our survey, and created "thank-you" packs, using ABC Canada Family Literacy Day promotional products, to give parents for filling surveys out.

The Child Centre arranged for local musicians to entertain the children and for Susan Ramsey, Early Literacy Specialist, to dramatically read stories. At the end of the presentations, S.P.A.C.E. staff had a moment to thank the musicians and speak to the participant group. We encouraged parents to visit our display and to fill out surveys and a ballot to win Family Literacy Day prizes. Having the display by the refreshments provided the perfect opportunity to 'capture' the attention of busy parents.

This event was a great way to test out our survey and connect with local families. Parents in attendance seemed very keen on the project and certainly wanted more information.

Valentine Literacy Activity Afternoon

The second event was a Valentine Literacy Activity Afternoon, held in Mountain Grove, in partnership with the Olden Recreation Committee.

It took several attempts to meet with the recreation committee but finally on January 19, we were able to present two proposals at their monthly meeting (**appendix 3**). One proposal was for a craft day and free lunch for children. This was the more costly proposal of the two, in time, money, effort and staffing. The alternative required the recreation committee to agree to prepare the ice at the local skating rink in time for a skating party, story time and free lunch. They discussed it and voted in favour of the second option.

We contacted the local schools, and created and printed a flyer for them to send out (**appendix 4**). We also posted flyers in numerous area businesses and on community bulletin boards. Information about the event was also published in the community calendar of the local newspaper.

On February 5, 2005, we held a Valentine Literacy Activity Afternoon and it was a great success. Not only did people enjoy using the skating rink, which had, up until that point, been poor and un-useable, but also families enjoyed a time of fellowship free of charge. After skating, families went back to the Olden Recreation Centre and enjoyed story time, where two very generous dads volunteered on the spot to read to the children. Angie Dennie also agreed to play the guitar and sing some participation songs for the children to enjoy. Afterwards, everyone gathered on the lower level of the hall for a free hot-dog lunch, cake, and Valentine cookie decorating. It was at that time that we thanked everyone again for coming and explained that this event was made possible with the support of Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation and EODF. We went on to tell them about the purposes of S.P.A.C.E. as a family literacy study and our need of their assistance in completing a brief interest survey. We also encouraged children to fill out the ballots for door prizes (Chapters gift certificate and two Family Literacy Day t-shirts). Added to the full survey was an additional small questionnaire how families found out about the event (**appendix 5**).

Generally, parents were very keen and helpful in completing surveys and we received very positive feedback about the event and research program, including many requests for more, similar, family and community gatherings (**appendix 6**).

Parent Teacher Association Meeting/Focus Groups

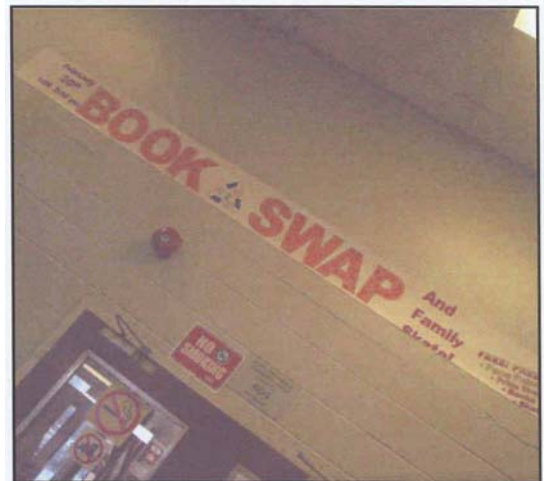
We attended two parent association meetings in the area. These visits were to introduce the program to parents who are active in the schools. The hope was that they might further discuss the S.P.A.C.E. program with their friends and spread information about us by word of mouth. We used these meetings as a focus group, to get more detailed input than we could from the survey.

The parents at Land O' Lakes Public School were very quiet and the session was mostly led by the principal. We gave them all copies of the survey and explained what our program was about. Two of the parents in attendance were already familiar with the S.P.A.C.E. program and had already done a survey at the Valentine Skating Party. The other two parents and one of the teachers were hearing about the project for the first time. The committee agreed to help in any way possible. However, when we asked them about any upcoming events/activities that were planned that we could partner on, they had only tentatively set one for the springtime, well after the S.P.A.C.E. project would be finished. The principal agreed to send home a copy of our survey with each student if it could fit on one page, back to back (see appendix 2).

The parent association meeting at Hinchinbrooke Public School was much more parent led. This was a great focus group setting, where parents were very comfortable expressing concerns that they had, as well as other topics we might consider for family literacy workshops or events. Hinchinbrooke Public School also agreed to send home surveys with each of their students.

Book Swap Events

When considering some of the challenges families might face in a rural community, access to books came to mind. Although there are public libraries in each area of Frontenac County, hours of operation are limited and distances are large. It is nice to own your own books to enjoy time and time again. Some parents liked the idea of trading in books that their children had become tired with, or simply grown out of.

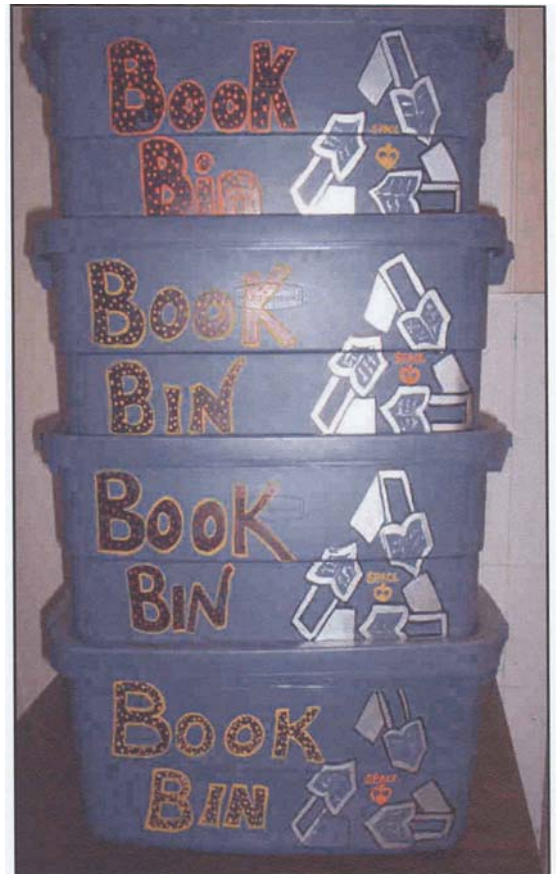


We decided that hosting a book swap might be a great way to meet all these needs. We also thought that it was unlikely that families would travel very far to attend functions so we decided to hold two separate book swap events. We contacted Betty Hunter, the head of the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Committee in Plevna and asked her about possible dates and locations to hold the event. With her advice, we decided that the morning of February 19th would be the best time to host a free pancake and sausage breakfast and book swap at the Clarendon-Miller (Clar-Mills) hall, in North Frontenac.

The second book swap event would need to be held further south. Every Sunday from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, the North Frontenac Community Centre (arena at Piccadilly), in the Township of South Frontenac hosts a family skate. This seemed like an excellent partnering opportunity, so we contacted arena manager, Jim Stinson, and arranged a date to host a free book swap during the family skate. Jim was very helpful, and also suggested we host something on a Saturday, since that was when the highest number of people pass through the arena for hockey. We decided that we would have an information session the Saturday before the book swap, where we could tell parents about the S.P.A.C.E. program, upcoming events, about NCALC, and give out surveys.

We contacted local school principals seeking their support in advertising events and collecting books, using S.P.A.C.E. Book Bins. We printed all the flyers that were to be sent home with students, to ensure costs were not incurred by the schools. (**appendix 7**).

All ten of the schools we approached said that they would be willing to spread the word about the events. Eight said that they would be willing to have book-bins in their schools, but when we collected the bins only three of them had books in them. It certainly made a difference when we had the full support of the principal behind the project. One principal, who was fully supportive of promoting family literacy, ran two of the schools that collected books. Three other schools were unable to collect books because they were planning to hold a used-book sale as a fundraiser for their school. Thankfully, the Flinton Memorial Library generously donated a selection of discarded books, especially for the book swap in North Frontenac Township.



To compensate for the initial lack of donated books, we approached members of the community, and of NCALC, to request donations. The Goodwill store in Kingston, managed by a former schoolteacher, made a very generous donation of three bags of books for the event. If a book-drive is held in the future, perhaps brown paper bags could be sent home with students for used books to be placed in. The bags could even act as a flyer by including all event information in or on them. One of the largest book donations came from a local teen-aged person. We feel that teen-agers would be a great group of people to target children's book donations. If a book swap is held in the future, perhaps a partnership could be established with the students' council at the local high schools. Maybe a friendly competition could be set up between departments within the school or even between area high schools to see which department/school could collect the most books.

February 12 we held an Information Session at the North Frontenac Community Centre, in Piccadilly. We set up a table in the gallery with our information board, NCALC flyers and surveys on it. We also made up little bags of candy to hand out, with S.P.A.C.E.

information and a 'family literacy tips' card attached to them (appendix 8). To draw families closer to the display a beanbag toss was set up for children to enjoy. Krista, our Project

Coordinator/Researcher had used her great creative skills to design the "loving elephant" target board. It was a great tool for occupying the children while parents either talked to us or filled out a survey. This was a very successful event, which allowed us time to connect with parents, to talk openly about our program, and to hear what they had to say about parenting concerns. We also got some feedback about our advertising techniques through parents telling us that they recognized us from the flyer their child had brought home from school.



February 20, we hosted the Book Swap during the family skate at the North Frontenac Community Centre. Two adult volunteers helped set up and run the event.

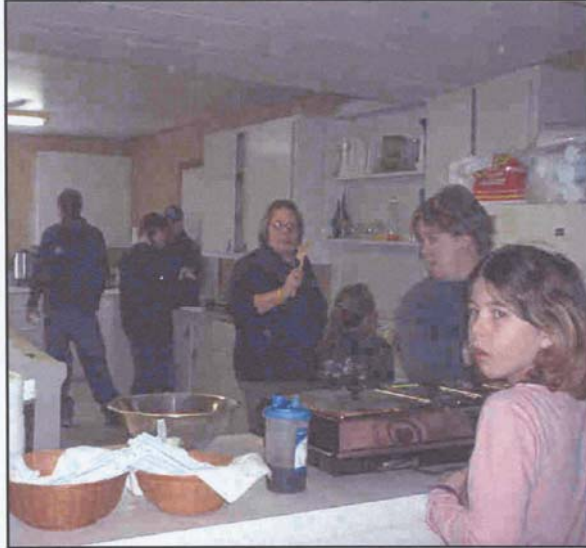
Upon our arrival at the arena, we found that tables had already been arranged and several bags and boxes of books had been displayed. A number of adult pocket books had also been laid out. It turned out that the response to these adult books was quite positive. We had decided to ask only for children's book donations since we felt there would be a greater likelihood of parents reading them with their children. However, perhaps the positive response warrants reconsideration for future events.

We had planned and advertised that there would be face painting for children, but due to a number of unforeseen happening just before the event, we were unable provide that service. This was unfortunate. We believe it would have been an additional attraction, drawing children and families up off of the ice to the gallery, where we were located.

Jim Stinson was very helpful. Not only did he assist us by putting up our banner, he also announced over the P.A. system that our free book swap was taking place, encouraging everyone to take a "book-break" while the Zamboni was at work repairing the ice.

A large number of people came through to view and even take books with them, but, despite the signs set up around the table, many did not realize that the books were free. This might have deterred some people from visiting us. We were able to talk with a lot of parents and have some surveys filled out. We also held draws for book-packs and a \$10 gift card to Chapters. The overall response to the event was very positive and many expressed an interest in making this an annual event (**appendix 10**).

In between the events at Piccadilly, on February 19, we hosted "Breakfast and a Book" at the Clar-Mills hall in Plevna. Eight teenagers volunteered to help with the event by setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning. Their volunteer hours counted towards their community service high school requirement and their assistance was greatly appreciated. Three adult volunteers also provided their services for the morning. Our partnering proposal with the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Committee (HPSR&C), requested



them to provide the hall and "people-power" to run the event, while S.P.A.C.E. would cover the costs/purchase of food (**appendix 9**). Unfortunately, HPSR&C, while they did provide the hall, were not able to provide any volunteers or other assistance for the event. This had a negative effect on the event's success.

By the date of the book swap though, we had several tables full of children's books for people to choose from. Our volunteers made pancakes,



sausages, hot coffee, and juice for participants to enjoy. There were also door prizes, including book packs and a \$10 gift card from Chapters. We had targeted North Addington Education Centre (NAEC) and Clarendon Central Public School (CCPS) as the prime schools for participation, but we also advertised at Land O' Lakes Public School (LOL), St. James Major Catholic School (SJMCS), and Sharbot Lake Public School (SLPS) in case people from those areas wanted to make the drive north for free breakfast and books. We were somewhat disappointed by the actual number of families in attendance. There was one family from CCPS, one family from NAEC, one family from LOL, and two families from SLPS. When evaluating why numbers were so low, we identified several key areas:

- There were no "local" people helping with the planning and organizing of the event (i.e. volunteering). Two local residents advised us afterwards that the northern area is a very tight-knit community. "Outsiders" definitely have a more difficult time when trying to host events or connect with the "local" people. They suggested that we ensure, in the future, that we have the full support of the local network and influential people to help plan and promote events;

- We were not told by HPSR&C that the weekend before our event the Ladies Fire Auxiliary held their annual Winterfest celebration, including a pancake breakfast (This would have been a great venue at which to hold our book swap); and
- Also unbeknownst to us, the same day we held our breakfast a pancake breakfast was being hosted by the Snow Road Snowmobile Club, just a short distance away.



Winter Fun Day



Winter Fun Day was held February 24, 2005, from 9-11am at the R.K.Y. Camp on Eagle Lake, Parham. This event was planned in partnership with the Ontario Early Years Centre - The Child Centre. The Child Centre staff were the primary organizers and the staff at R.K. Y ran the activities.

We met with the staff at The Child Centre, February 3 to discuss the event. The S.P.A.C.E. program was invited to have a display and conduct surveys. In return we supplied "prizes" (freezies) for children and assisted with the cost of the event.

While the event was open to all families with pre-school aged children, and school aged siblings were welcome, the turn out was quite disappointing with only ten families in attendance. We feel this was a result of the advertisement being limited to the Child Centre and their playgroups. (**appendix 11**). Many of the parents who were there had already completed our survey and were aware of the program. One parent, was unwilling to complete a survey.

In evaluation we would not consider partnering in this type of event to be advantageous to S.P.A.C.E. The cost of the event was fairly high and the positive outcome for our research project was relatively low; there was not a sufficient literacy component; this is not the best venue to locate parents of school-aged children; and events need a much wider promotion base.

Reading Strategies Workshop

In our early surveying, many parents expressed the need for help in assisting their child with homework. We enlisted the help of Susan Leslie, Director of Children's Services, North Frontenac Community Services, for suggestions of how we could help them. Following up on her advice, we contacted both the homework-help teacher from the Child Centre and Debbie Nesbitt-Monroe from the Family Resource Centre of Kingston Literacy. Debbie agreed to facilitate a reading strategies workshop, which, in part, would address the homework issue families were contending with. We decided to hold it February 26. A Saturday was chosen for a couple of reasons: first, it was one of the two days Debbie was willing to come out to Sharbot Lake and, second, we wanted to see what the attendance would be for a workshop, of this sort, being held on a weekend. Even with free childcare, it was a struggle to find enough people to attend the workshop. Debbie had set the minimum number of participants at 4, and the maximum at 15. Thursday evening we were scrambling to find participants, securing seven, with two not showing up on the day of the event.

Although it was disappointing that so few parents took advantage of the event, we consider it a success as all of the people in attendance said that they enjoyed the workshop and left it feeling that they had gained valuable information that will help them better assist their children with reading. They also felt they would recommend it to others and would attend similar events themselves in future.

In evaluation of the event we feel that the problem was the choice of times, as many contacted said they were not able to attend on the weekend. Later analysis of surveyed data confirms this. We feel that sufficient promotion was carried out - an ad was printed in the local newspaper two weeks in a row; flyers went out at Sharbot Lake Public School and St. James Major Catholic School; and we made personal telephone calls to parents who had expressed interest in the topic in the past (**appendix 12**). Of these advertising methods, one parent responded to a school flyer, another came after she saw a poster at NCALC, and three came because of personal or word-of-mouth contact.

Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for Parents – Sharbot Lake

Scrapbooking is currently a very popular activity that many people are interested in doing. It also has the potential to be a great literacy tool and can be used to promote both adult literacy and family literacy. The goal of this event was to show parents the ways that scrapbooking could be used to help document oral family history. We also wanted parents to see that this craft does not have to be expensive and can be enjoyed while encouraging family literacy.



On March 9, we hosted a Scrapbooking Workshop at the Ontario Early Years Centre, The Child Centre. Cindi Scott, an Adolescent Care Worker at Sharbot Lake High School,

facilitated the workshop. To advertise the event we placed an ad in the newspaper for two consecutive weeks, asking people to call ahead to register, since space was limited for both the scrapbooking and the free childcare we were offering. Sharbot Lake Public School was also very supportive and sent home a copy of our workshop information with each student. Nine people signed up ahead of time. The participants were very excited about the workshop and requested that it not be just a one-time thing. A mother who had come pick up her children from daycare expressed her distress at not being able to attend the workshop but would be grateful if another would be planned. She and two other people in attendance started talking about organizing informal get-togethers where they could scrapbook, share ideas, chat, and share a time of fellowship. They even suggested that they make it potluck and rotate between houses once or twice a month. This would be such a wonderful way for

parents and caregivers to get together, share ideas, and support each other in Family Literacy.



Cindi did a fantastic job facilitating the workshop and we were very fortunate to have her share her creative ideas and expertise with us. She developed a pamphlet that had many interesting scrapbooking ideas and tips for beginners (**appendix 13**). She did a personalized and informative introduction, showing participants different possibilities for layouts and designs. She also showed the group

some of her pages and shared some ideas of ways to do scrapbooking with your children. Cindi also guided the group on how to journal and offered suggestions of different and creative ways to display or "hide" journaling on your pages. This literacy component was something that many of the participants had not thought of earlier, but were very enthusiastic about.

Everyone did a fabulous job creating personalized scrapbooking pages and letting their imaginations guide them. For several participants it was their first time scrapbooking. One lady reported back to us that she went straight home and finished hers on her own. Another participant said that she couldn't wait to do it again, and also expressed her desire to arrange a monthly get-together with fellow parents to continue this newly discovered hobby.

Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for Parents - Harrowsmith

As a result of the success of the scrapbooking workshop held March 9, in Sharbot Lake, we decided to host another workshop in the southern part of Frontenac. We ran the workshop in the boardroom at the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation in Harrowsmith.



Thankfully, Cindi Scott agreed to facilitate again and even had ways of improving with some minor changes and streamlining of her presentation.

To advertise this workshop we faxed an article to the Gazette and Frontenac News newspapers; emailed letters and flyers to Loughborough Public School, Harrowsmith Public School, and to Prince Charles Public School; emailed a flyer to F.C.F.D.C.; and emailed a copy of our flyer to Kingston Literacy's Leonard Judge, Interim Coordinator at the Community Learning Centre - Hartington (**appendix 14**). The Frontenac News published our article but unfortunately, the Gazette did not support us by printing the article sent to them (**appendix 15**). There was no response from the principals of the schools contacted. Despite the lack of support for advertising, we were able to sign up twelve people for the workshop. We were surprised by this since there was no child care this time and just over half of the participants were from Central Frontenac, traveling up to 40 minutes, one way, to attend the workshop. Five of the twelve registered participants signed up as a result of a direct emailed announcement using contact information received from past events and surveys. Two joined after they saw the article printed in the Frontenac News, saying that they had been following the newspaper articles about events we had hosted throughout the study, and finally decided to come out and attend a workshop. The others were parents in the area who we knew to be interested in this workshop topic so we phoned them, informed them of our S.P.A.C.E. program and invited them to come to the workshop.

The boardroom at the FCFDC was the perfect space for our workshop. Lindsay Wemp, a Youth Intern for FCFDC, helped out tremendously by setting up the room and helping us get organized. She also acted as a photographer for the event. While participants filtered into the room, we had the chance to talk with them about our program and give them our survey to fill out. Many of them were quite excited about the workshop and expressed their belief of a need for programming for parents of school-aged children in the area, too.

Cindi again did a fantastic job presenting the information and basic scrapbooking techniques. The literacy component came through in an interesting way and Cindi also brought in a hand-made mini scrapbook that some young people had made to demonstrate how inexpensive and easy it could be. When talking about different places to purchase supplies, it became a very interactive atmosphere with participants sharing their favorite stores and products, as well as their own scrapbooking tips and crafting experiences. It was wonderful to listen and watch the new "scrappers" in action, talking and helping one another, and sharing their ideas and suggestions of how to improve their pages when someone needed advice.



This was a successful workshop, and many people once again expressed the desire to continue having similar workshops and events. It was interesting that when we held the last workshop, we made sure that we included free childcare and it was even a bit of a struggle to get eight people to sign up. This time we held it on the same night of the week, with the same facilitator, free supplies, snacks, and length of time, but without childcare and we had 12 people attend without having to recruit anyone. There was also less large-scale advertising

since the Gazette did not run our article, nor did the schools send our flyers home. The other interesting point was that about half of the participants were from Central Frontenac area, so they had a relatively long drive. We truly believe that we had such a good turnout because people are starting to get used to us and to the S.P.A.C.E. program as a presence in the area, we are being more accepted, and people are starting to talk about the program and events more.

Over the past four months we have built a base of partners and supporters. The observation was made that some of the people who have been participating in events might be the part of the population who takes active roles in the community and in their child's education. What we began to see at the second scrapbooking workshop was that our initial base of parents and caregivers are spreading the word. They are telling their friends about the S.P.A.C.E. program, and their friends are then telling others about it. This ripple effect seems to be the best method to reach the rest of the community, especially those people who truly need family literacy supports. It speaks to the importance of a strong and continuous networking base.

Special Needs Discussion Panel

We also planned a Special Needs Discussion Panel to be held somewhere in South Frontenac. The first step was to find out when facilitators were available and to where they would be willing to travel. Susan Irwin, Lawyer and Executive Director of Rural Legal Services, Sharbot Lake said that she covered as far south as Verona. Janice Barling of the Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston said that she would go as far north as Verona in good driving conditions. The third facilitator, Janet Sanderson from the Limestone District School Board Educational Services was willing to travel to Verona as well and the mutually agreed upon date was April 5.

The next step was trying to find a meeting place to hold the workshop. This proved not to be as easy as first thought. Several messages were left at Prince Charles Public School, all going unanswered. March Break hindered any attempts to book the school since they were closed for the week. Many phone calls were made to the Lions Club - Verona contacts, to inquire whether the Lions Hall was available for that night, but there was no answer or answering machine. The Free Methodist Church in Verona was contacted and although they could have accommodated us, by the time the secretary returned my call to confirm a date, it was too late to properly plan and advertise the event.

It was decided to cancel the event, after careful consideration. The discussion panel is a worthwhile idea and we feel that many people would benefit from learning more about accommodating special needs children, but it needs to be properly advertised and the appropriate amount of time needs to be dedicated to planning and running the event. Again the short time-frames of this project did not allow for the more than two months planning and promotion necessary for some events.

Data Collection

Methodology

The interest survey created for this project had several parts to help determine different types of data such as:

- Demographical information, including postal code, to determine which towns displayed a need, and age and number of children to develop an understanding of which school levels were being reached.
- A list of several topics asking parents in which areas they felt they would benefit from additional support. This section also allowed additional topics to be written down by the parent, if it was not already addressed by the survey.
- A section asking parents if they would be interested in attending free information sessions or workshops. This was an important question, as even though they had indicated that they would benefit from more information, it did not necessarily mean that they would take advantage of workshops or information sessions if they were provided.
- Two questions to determine which times people were available to attend events and workshops, and which marketing techniques would be most effective in reaching people living in rural areas.

Attached to the surveys were forms parents could choose to fill out if they were interested in being notified about information workshops and events. This was created as a separate part due to its private information content which was not required in survey analysis.

There were several stages in creating the survey. We spoke with some learners and volunteers attending Northern Connections for their input, to see from a parent or caregivers' perspective, what they thought would be pertinent questions to ask. Once the survey was near completion, we took it to the Ontario Early Years Centre (The Child Centre) and had their Data Analyst Coordinator, Mary Jo Dowker, look the survey over and offer suggestions of ways to improve it even further.

Distribution and Gathering Process:

The survey was presented to parents at S.P.A.C.E. workshops, information sessions, activities and events, which are detailed earlier in this report.

Surveys were also distributed at parent teacher association meetings at both Hinchinbrooke and Land O' Lakes Public Schools. These meetings acted as impromptu focus groups, with parents reviewing the survey and providing feedback based on issues that they face on a daily basis. They also voiced general points of interest and overall concerns that they have, in relation to their child's education. Land O' Lakes and Hinchinbrooke Public Schools sent copies of the survey home with each student. A request for other area schools to do the same was faxed to each principal; however, for various reasons, including

March break and the Easter long weekend, no responses were received. Attempts were made to contact schools on Wolfe Island to ask if they would consider sending copies of our surveys home with their students. This would have given us a clearer sense of what the needs parents had in the Township of Frontenac Islands, but neither the public or Catholic schools returned our calls or replied to faxes. On several occasions, we tried to visit the schools on Wolfe Island, but in each instance the weather created poor driving/ferry conditions and the trip had to be cancelled.

Other partners also helped distribute our survey. Beth Clancey from Rural Visions in Sydenham took a number of surveys to give to her clients. The Child Centre took surveys to give to parents during the playgroups they facilitate.

Attempts were made to contact and survey parents of high school aged children, but very few of these parents attended our events and there was no response to our article in the Sharbot Lake High School newsletter.

Scope and Limitations:

In total 79 surveys were completed at S.P.A.C.E.-events. Of 15 surveys delivered to Rural Visions only two were filled out and returned. The research program printed 155 copies of the survey for Land O' Lakes Public School, of which 8 were returned to the school, and none of the 150 printed surveys were brought back to Hinchinbrooke Public School.

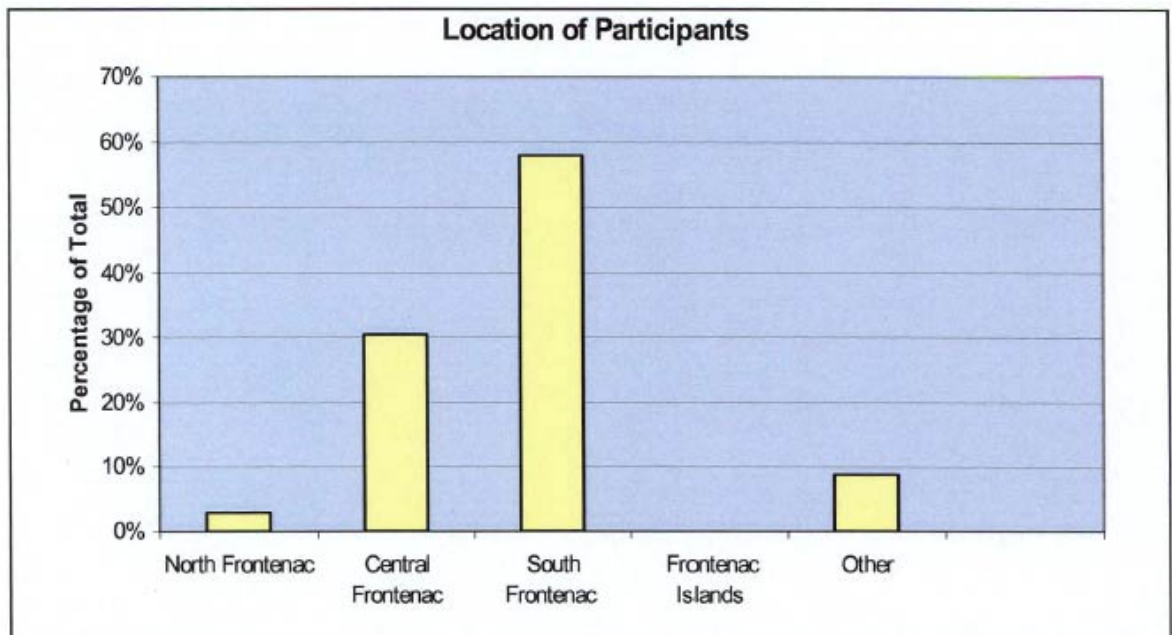
Working with the Ontario Early Years Centre (The Child Centre) was an invaluable partnership. We were able to use their facilities for workshops, they provided childcare, and we partnered on the Winter Fun Day and Literacy Day events. They offered support on many aspects of the S.P.A.C.E. research project, including assisting us in getting surveys filled out by parents in the area. Through our partnership with the Child Centre, many parents of preschool aged children were surveyed. Some of these parents felt that the survey did not target them, as their children were not in school yet. We explained that it was also important for us to consider what parents feared, or felt they would be challenged by as their children entered school. Parents then felt comfortable contributing their thoughts and opinions to our survey.

The length of time allowed for this study to be run was a limitation in itself. It was a challenge to prepare, administer, and collect surveys to provide a valuable sampling of different parents and caregivers in the four-month time frame we had. Since the parents of school-aged children were the focus of the S.P.A.C.E. study, the school calendar effected our scheduling of events and possible time available to reach the target audience. There were over three weeks of holiday time in the four-month S.P.A.C.E. study period. Another time based challenge was the fact that, especially in a rural community, it takes awhile to become accepted as a "valid" organization or study by the residents. It became apparent that less than four months is not enough time to inform the rural population of the project's presence and gain their trust. This was validated, towards the end of the project. People who had attended or heard about our projects and events before were not just returning but were referring other people to us as well; some contacted Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres because they had been following articles about the S.P.A.C.E. program in local newspapers; still others became interested and involved with the project after word of mouth

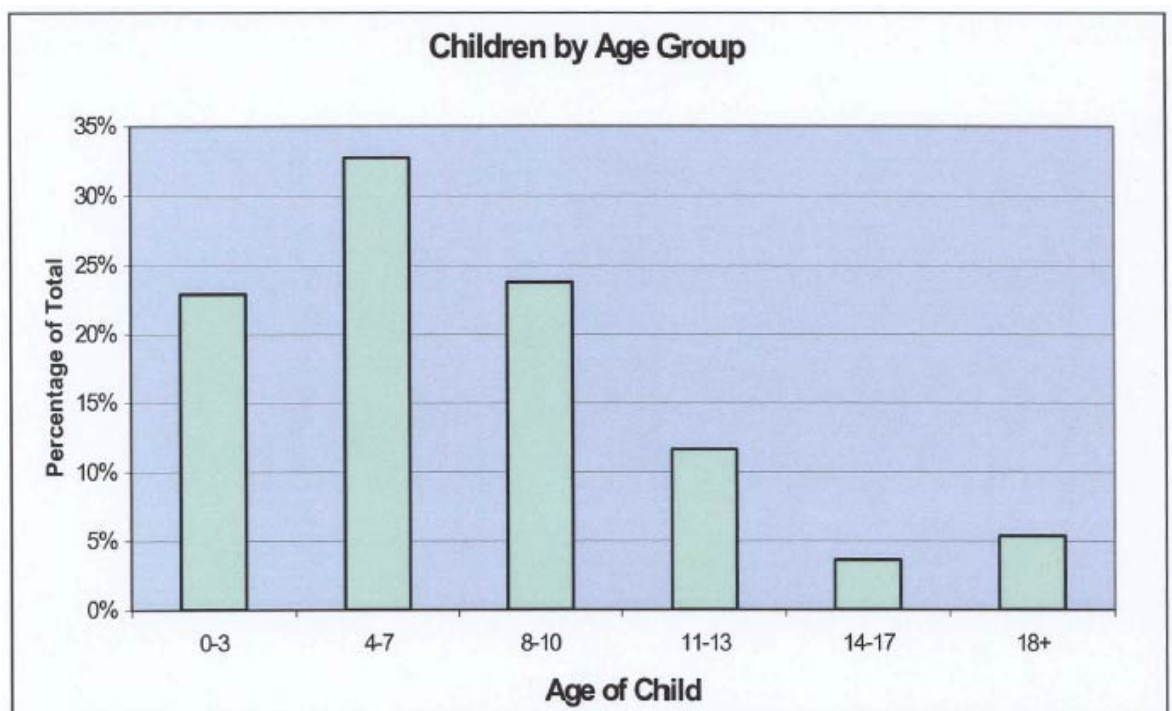
referrals. Two people who attended one of the scrapbooking workshops indicated that they had been following the family literacy program by reading the articles in the local newspaper, and they decided to check the program out for themselves by attending a workshop. It was only after regular exposure to information about the program that they felt ready, interested, and confident enough to explore the program more closely.

These anecdotal comments about the necessity of community awareness were complemented by results of a mini questionnaire handed out at later events, asking how parents found out about the project. The largest group of respondents, at 43%, found out about our events through word of mouth advertising. Being accepted in the community was equally necessary for the second most common method of finding out about the project through flyers or newsletters distributed through schools at just under 40%. This method is only possible once the schools are aware and supportive of the project. The questionnaire responses also indicated that advertising in local newspapers, especially through articles about the program and by putting event dates in the community calendar, was the third most popular way people found out about our events (percentages do not equal 100 as more than respondents were asked to select all applicable answers). It is interesting that all of the top three choices - word of mouth, school circulated materials and free newspaper advertising are either free or of little cost. This is a significant factor in planning future cost effective projects.

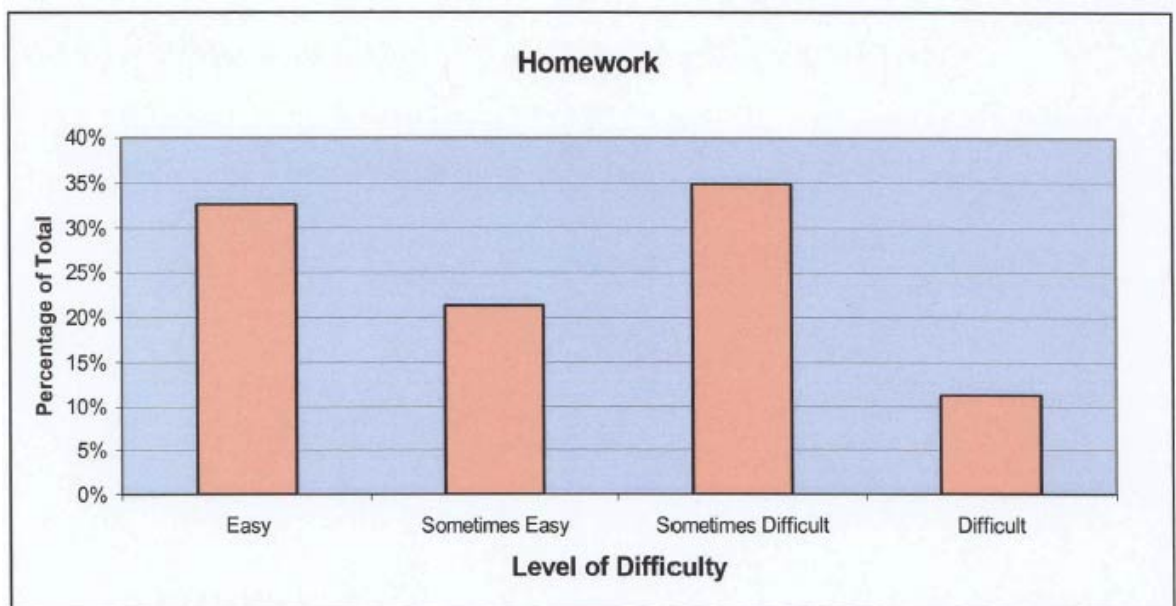
Data Findings and Commentary on Possible Significance:



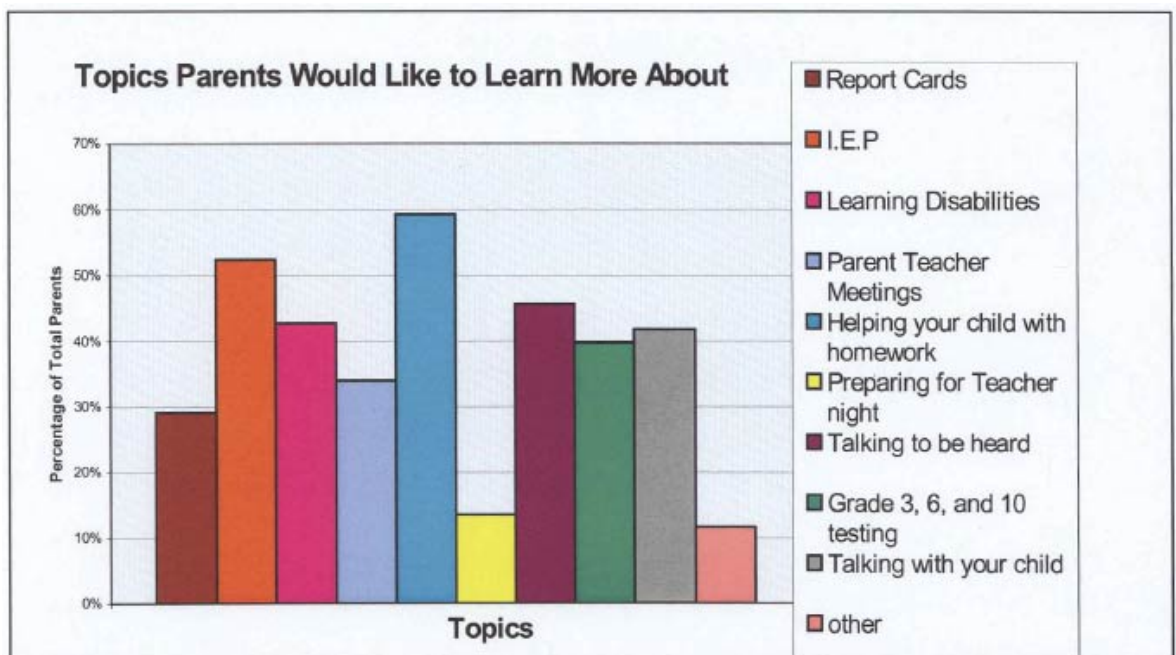
Even though the greatest concentration of events was held in Central Frontenac, the highest number of event participants and people agreeing to fill out surveys were from the Township of South Frontenac. This could be the result of higher population concentration or type of event but it warrants further study.



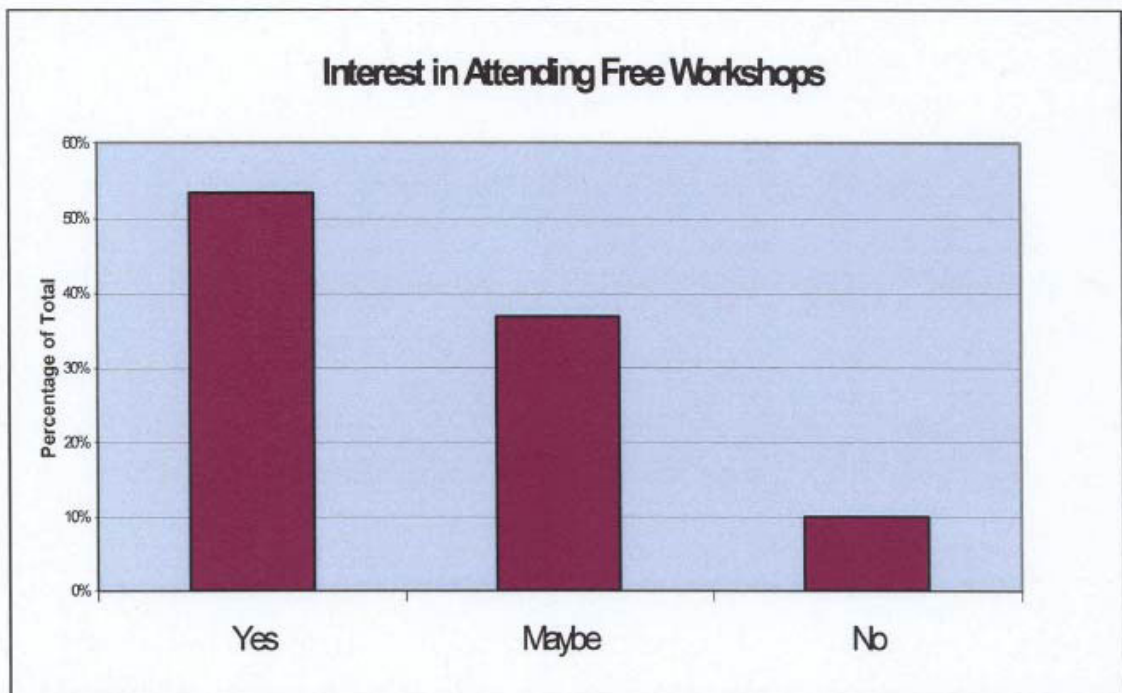
Most parents who attended our events had children at the primary school level. The results may have been skewed the fact that we partnered with The Child Centre for so many events.



It is significant that almost 50% of parents felt that it was difficult or sometimes difficult to help their children with their homework. Taking in the fact that so many parents surveyed had pre-school or primary aged children would either show an extremely high number of parents of school-aged children are experiencing difficulty or that parents are concerned about their ability even before their children are attending school. Reanalysis of individual surveys may be warranted to better identify which target group is more needy.

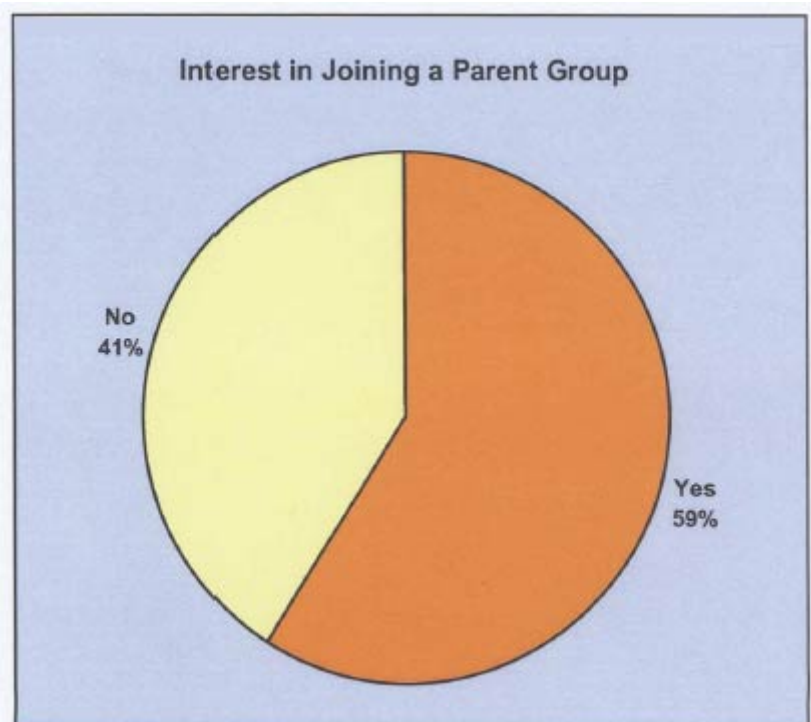


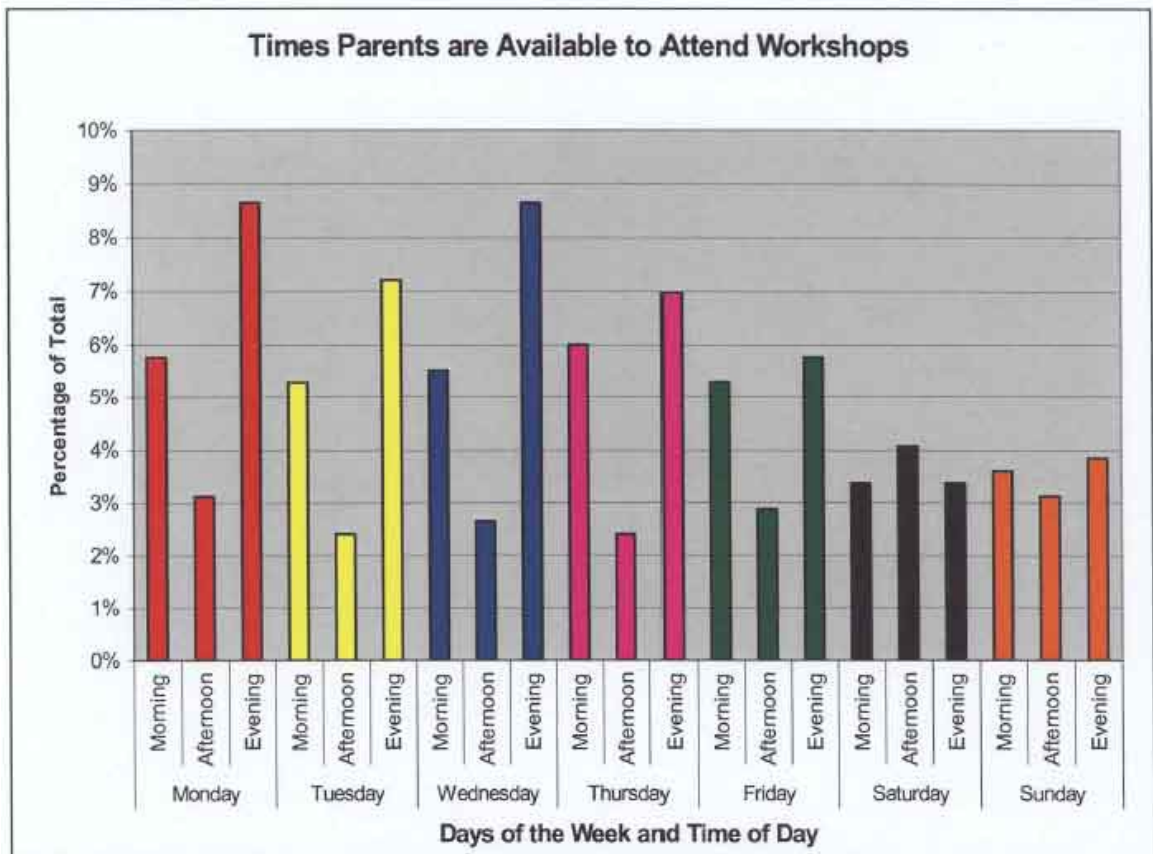
Most parents wished to learn different ways that they could help their children with homework. This was identified through the survey and further evidenced by talking with parents at events. Motivation and time management regarding homework were also recurring themes.



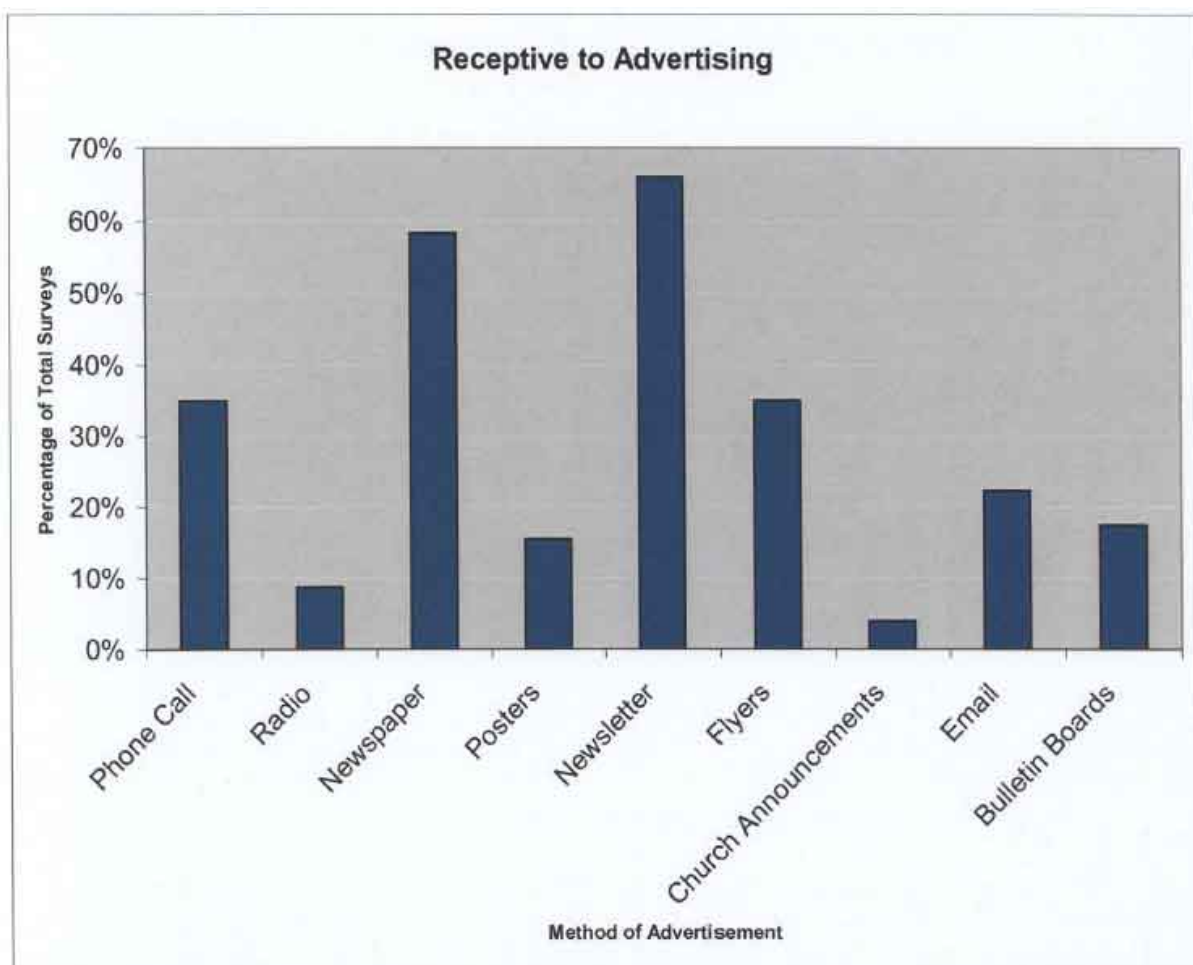
The majority of parents were agreeable to attend free workshops. Only 10% were not interested, which indicates a significant desire on the part of parents to learn the skills necessary to support their children's education. Scheduling conflicts and shift work were among the top reasons for answering maybe. Therefore, careful planning is required to ensure that services are supplied during the right time slots and locations to accommodate varying needs.

Almost 60% of parents were willing to agree to join a parent group. Some parents expressed concern that they did not feel comfortable committing to a parent group when their schedules were unstable.

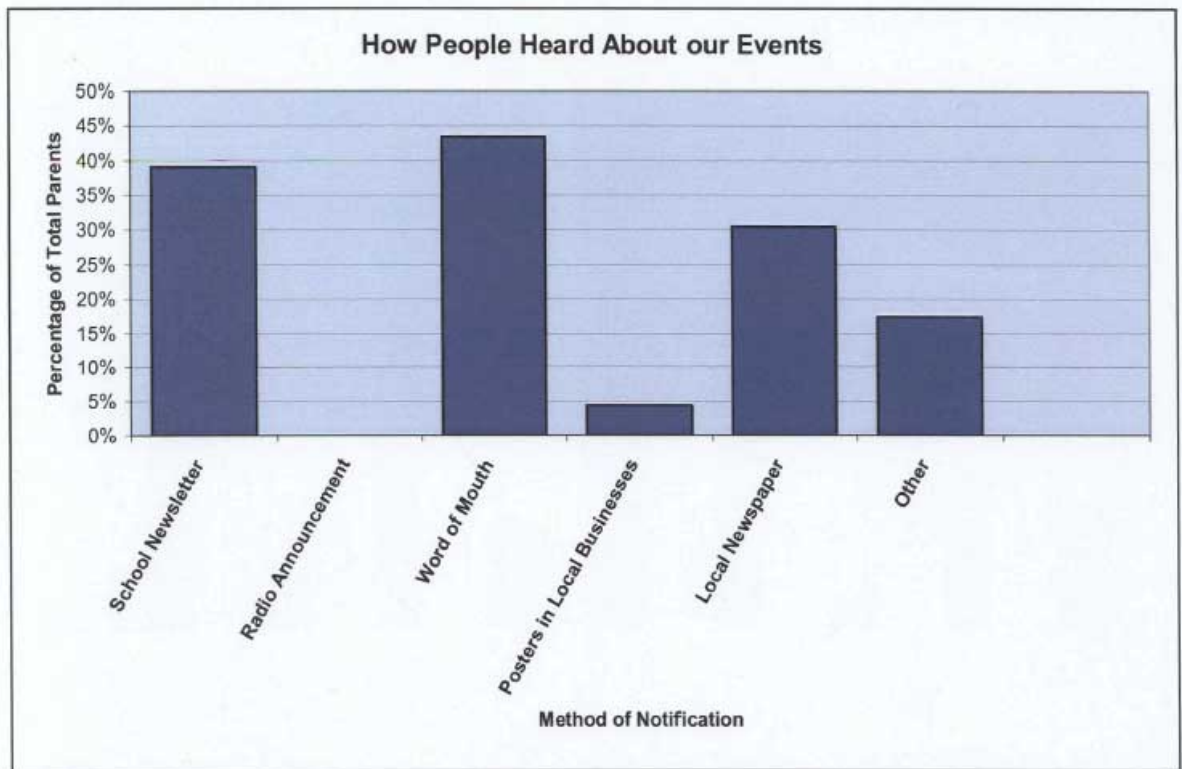




Although there was a wide range of answers, weekday evenings seemed to be the best times for people to attend workshops and events. This was certainly supported by the outcome of the events held throughout the S.P.A.C.E. program. It was very difficult to get people to the workshop held on a Saturday morning, and much easier to get a group for the events held Wednesday evenings. However, family events on weekends were very well supported.



The data gathered through the interest survey indicates that school newsletters at 66%, and newspapers at 59% were the most favoured way parents wished to be notified of events and workshops. This was supported by the mini questionnaires given at some S.P.A.C.E. workshops and events.



The results of the mini questionnaire indicated that the most effective method of notification was word of mouth. Forty-three percent of parents learned about our events through word of mouth while thirty-nine percent were notified by school newsletter and thirty percent by local newspaper (Percentages do not equal 100 as respondents were requested to select all methods that applied). Since this program was directly targeting parents of school-aged children, it made sense to advertise through the schools. Articles and advertisements printed in the local newspaper were also useful ways to reach parents with pre-school aged children. Word of mouth notice increased as the research study progressed, and as people became more and more aware of S.P.A.C.E., its purpose, workshops and events; and especially as they learned this family literacy program was beneficial to the community and more visible in the area. As the program grew, more and more people became regular participants in workshops, and others became aware of S.P.A.C.E. and began to spread the word. A concern is that just as a research study ends, a foundation for this type of family literacy has been established. Time and effort needs to be found for the partner organizations to continue to work together.

Youth Internship

An integral part of this project was the Youth Internship position funded by sponsored by Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund. Without this funded position the study and corresponding activities could not have been completed. We therefore feel that some commentary on this facet should be made.

Youth Internships provide the interns with valued experience within their community. They also provide networking opportunities to help establish links to future employment. In the case of this project our Youth Intern, Krista Scott, was an accredited teacher with most of her experience outside of Canada. Both her training and experience were assets in the position of Family Literacy Researcher/Developer for the project. In exchange, the project allowed her to have more, localized experience, which was relative to her career path.

During this project there were opportunities for personal development for Krista. Fortunately when the contract position started there was time to register for the Foundational Training in Family Literacy online course offered by Community Literacy Ontario, which started January 13. One of the benefits of this course has been the personal contacts and networking that has taken place. This has been valuable training not only for the S.P.A.C.E. family literacy project, but also for any future employment Krista may have in the field of education.

On February 24 Krista attended a workshop on Effective Proposal Writing. This was a very interesting and informative experience. The speaker, Ken Wyman had many tips and ideas of ways a person can effectively write a proposal so that it gets read and considered. Ken also had many suggestions of places to find project money and places where someone could search for more. In seeking further funding for Family Literacy programming in our communities, this training will be of value.

March 3 and 4 Krista attended the LLEO (Literacy Link Eastern Ontario) Conference in Cornwall. This provided an opportunity to meet people from other literacy organizations as well as become better acquainted with fellow staff from NCALC Training provided through workshops at this event was very practical, beneficial, and applicable in a variety of potential future job situations.

As NCALC also provides Employment Assistance Services to the northern Frontenac areas, Krista was able to receive help in her search for permanent employment, while working on her internship. Assistance was provided in resume/curriculum vitae writing, etc.

Unfortunately the length of this internship, at only four months, was very brief to fully reap the values of the interning partnership. A longer contract as well as allowing for greater skills development, looks better on a resume as a longer work period. We recommend that future internships be for a minimum of six months. This would provide better orientation to the workplace, on-the-job training, networking and, of course, reference for future employment.

We again thank the FCFDC, EODF and Krista Scott for their part in making this study and the literacy activities possible.



Appendix 1

Interest Survey

S.P.A.C.E. (Support for Parents and Children in Education) is a project run by the **Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres**. We offer support to you so that you are better able to help your child in their education. We are **not part of the school board**.

You do not have to put your name on this survey.

By completing this survey you will help us to better serve your needs.

Thank you!

1. Where do you live? (Please circle the best answer).

Arden

Mountain Grove

Henderson

Godfrey

Plevna

Sharbot Lake

Parham

Other _____

2. How many children do you have in each age group? (Please fill in the blanks)

0-3 _____

4-7 _____

8-10 _____

11-13 _____

14-17 _____

18+ _____

3. Do you find helping your child with their homework ...

(Please circle the best answer)

EASY

SOMETIMES EASY

SOMETIMES DIFFICULT

DIFFICULT

4. What areas do you feel would be helpful to talk or learn more about? (Please circle Yes or No)

Yes No **Report Cards**

Yes No **I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plans)**

Yes No **Learning Disabilities**

Yes No **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Yes No **How to help your child with homework**

Yes No **Preparing for parent night**

Yes No **Talking so the teacher/principal listens**

Yes No **Grades 3, 6, and 10 testing**

Yes No **Talking with your child**

Other: _____

5. Would you be interested in attending FREE workshops or information sessions that cover any of the topics mentioned in question 4? (Please circle the best answer)

YES

NO

MAYBE

6. If you answered NO to question 5 what would help you to change your decision to YES? (Please fill in the blank)

7. Would you be interested in joining a parent group where you can talk about problems and get suggestions about your child's education? (Please circle)

YES

NO

8. Please circle the best times for you to attend workshops or other events?

Monday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thursday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening

9. How would you like to hear about workshops and other events?

(Please mark the box of your top three choices)

- ☐ **Phone Call**
- ☐ **Radio (e.g. on Community Calendar) D Local Newspaper**
- ☐ **Posters in local stores D School Newsletter D Flyers in the mail**
- ☐ **Announcements at Church**
- ☐ **Community Bulletin Boards (e.g. bank, stores, gas stations, community centres)**



Thank you for completing this survey. For more information on this or any other programs offered by Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres contact us at (613) 279-2499.

If you are interested in either attending FREE workshops or information sessions about ways to help your child in school or wish to join a parent group please fill in your personal information:

First and Last Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

If you are interested in either attending FREE workshops or information sessions about ways to help your child in school or wish to join a parent group please fill in your personal information:

First and Last Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

If you are interested in either attending FREE workshops or information sessions about ways to help your child in school or wish to join a parent group please fill in your personal information:

First and Last Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____



Interest Survey

S.P.A.C.E. (Support for Parents and Children in Education) is a project run by the **Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres**. We offer support to you so that you are better able to help your child in their education. We are **not part of the school board**.

You do not have to put your name on this survey.

By completing this survey you will help us to better serve your needs.

Thank you!

1. What is your postal code? (Please fill in the blank)

2. How many children do you have in each age group?

(Please fill in the blanks)

0-3 ____ 4-7 ____ 8-10 ____ 11-13 ____ 14-17 ____ 18+ ____

3. Do you find helping your child with their homework?

(Please circle the best answer)

EASY SOMETIMES EASY SOMETIMES DIFFICULT DIFFICULT

4. What areas do you feel would be helpful to talk or learn more about? (Please circle Yes or No)

Yes No **Report Cards**

Yes No **I.E.P. (Individualized Education Plans)**

Yes No **Learning Disabilities**

Yes No **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Yes No **How to help your child with homework**

Yes No **Preparing for parent night**

Yes No **Talking so the teacher/principal listens**

Yes No **Grades 3, 6, and 10 testing**

Yes No **Talking with your child**

Other: _____

5. Would you be interested in attending FREE workshops or information sessions that cover any of the topics mentioned in question 4? (Please circle the best answer) YES NO MAYBE

6. If you answered NO to question 5 what would help you to change your decision to YES? (Please fill in the blank)

7. Would you be interested in joining a parent group where you can talk about problems and get suggestions about your child's education? (Please circle) YES NO

8. Please circle the best times for you to attend workshops or other events?

Monday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Tuesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Thursday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Sunday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening

9. How would you like to hear about workshops and other events? (Please mark the box of your top three choices)

- ☐ Phone call
- ☐ Radio (e.g. on Community Calendar)
- ☐ Local Newspaper
- ☐ Posters in local stores
- ☐ School Newsletter
- ☐ Flyers in the mail
- ☐ Announcements at Church
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Community Bulletin Boards (i.e. bank, stores, gas stations, community centres)



Thank you for completing this survey. For more information on this or any other programs offered by Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres contact us at (613) 279-2499.

Proposal and Schedule: Valentine Literacy Activity Afternoon with the support and Cooperation of the Olden recreation Committee.

OUTLINE:

- A. 10: 30 Welcome and registration
- B. 10: 30-11: 15 Activity Time (Valentine crafts)/parent contact time
- C. 11: 15-11:45 Circle time (Valentine songs, rhymes, etc.)
- D. 11:45-12:15 Games
- E. 12: 15-12:45 Lunch
- F. Towards the end of lunch Participation Certificates/prizes

DETAILED OUTLINE:

1. When children come into the hall they will "sign in" by putting their handprints on the banner accompanied by their names written on another piece of paper and glued onto the banner. Children will also receive their heart necklace/passports to be stamped at each centre in which they participate.
2. Children and parents will gather for a brief circle time until the majority of children arrive. This time will be spent singing songs and playing simple games (i.e. "duck, duck, goose!" the hokey pokey, etc.)
3. Children will rotate through 4 activity centres. - Activities include: Valentine cookie decorating, Valentine glasses, baby food tea light holders or puzzle picture frames, and Valentine card making/writing.
4. While children are enjoying activity time. Parents will be invited to another part of the room to talk to them about the S.P.A.C.E. program and about Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres. At this time we would also like them to fill out our Interest Survey.
5. Once children are finished activity time, invite parents and children to gather in a circle for a story, some songs and to showcase their crafts.
6. Parents and children will be invited to participate in some games.
7. Once the games are done (approximately 20 minutes later) we should break for lunch and enjoy hotdogs, cheesies, veggies, and juice.
8. As children are eating lunch we could hand out the participation certificates/prizes and do the draw for "guess the number of candy hearts". (While activity time, circle time, and games are going on, someone will need to write the names of the children in attendance on the certificates)

FREE!!!

Valentine Party



What: Parents and Children are invited to join us for a fun morning of skating, story and song time, followed by a yummy lunch. (If weather is too poor for skating a craft/activity time will be held in the hall instead)

Date: Saturday, February 5, 2005

When: 10:30-1:00

Where: Mountain Grove Skating Rink and Hall

Cost: FREE!!! FREE!!! FREE!!!

This event is brought to you by the S.P.A.C.E. program at the Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres and Mountain Grove Recreation Committee.

For more information contact Krista at 279-2499
Funded by Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation

How did you hear about this event?



- ☐ School newsletter
- ☐ Radio announcement
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Posters in local businesses
- ☐ Local newspaper
- ☐ Other _____

How did you hear about this event?



- ☐ School newsletter
- ☐ Radio announcement
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Posters in local businesses
- ☐ Local newspaper
- ☐ Other _____

How did you hear about this event?



- ☐ School newsletter
- ☐ Radio announcement
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Posters in local businesses
- ☐ Local newspaper
- ☐ Other _____

Fabulous Family Literacy Fun!

S.P.A.C.E. (Support for Parents and Children in Education) is an exciting new family literacy venture of Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres. S.P.A.C.E examines various literacy supports needed by parents in the rural areas of Frontenac, to gain the skills necessary to make them feel confident in dealing with the various aspects of their children's education. Necessary areas of support and information will be identified through parent input, from questionnaires and focus groups, and will be addressed through workshops and information sessions for parents to attend FREE of charge.

On Saturday February 5th, N.C.A.L.C. partnered with the Olden Recreation Committee to host a Valentine skating party in Mountain Grove to promote of family literacy. Families from Mountain Grove, the neighbouring communities, and even as far away as Perth, joined us for this event. The weather was perfect and spirits were high, as over 90 people enjoyed skating on the ice rink. Everyone then gathered in the Mountain Grove hall to listen to stories, wonderfully read by local dads Mike Drew and Terry Reynolds, and to sing some songs lead by the very talented Angie Denny, who also played accompaniment on her guitar. A delicious lunch was then served, followed by Valentine cookie decorating for the children.

The information parents kindly shared through questionnaires and comments is extremely appreciated and will be valuable to our family literacy study.

Many thanks to the Olden Recreation Committee and to all those who made the event possible. An extra special thanks goes to the families who came out to support us. It was a fabulous morning enjoyed by all!

Other FREE and exciting upcoming events that S.P.A.C.E. is hosting or partnering on with other organizations are:

- February 19, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Breakfast and Book at the ClarMills Hall, Plevna
- February 20, 1 :00 pm – 2: 30 pm, Free Book Swap and Family Skate at the North Frontenac Community Centre, Piccadilly
- February 24, 9: 30 am – 11: 30 am, Winter Fun Day, RKY Camp
- February 26, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon, Reading Strategies Workshop at the Ontario Early Years Centre, Sharbot Lake with Free Child Care
- March 9, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, Scrapbooking Workshop for Beginners at the Ontario Early Years Centre, Sharbot Lake with Free Child Care
- Special Needs Workshop/Panel Discussion, date and location to be announced

If you would like more information please call Krista at 279-2499.



Breakfast and a Book

Join us for a FREE morning of FUN!

What: Enjoy a pancake breakfast, story time, and leave with a "new" book all for FREE!

Where: Clar-Mills Hall (Plevna)

When: 9:30 - 11:00 am

Date: February 19, 2005

Cost: **FREE! FREE! FREE!**



For more information contact Krista Scott at
Northern Connections Adult Learning Centre 279-2499



Family Skating at "RKY" Camp



*Come join fun for a morning of games, skating,
tobogganing, crafts, book reading and hot chocolate.*

Everyone welcome!!

When: Thursday February 24, 2005

Where: "RKY" Camp Parham, Ont.

Time: 9:30-11:30am

(there will be no playgroups on this day)

*Sponsored by: The Ontario Early Years Centre
And Northern Connections.*



We Want Your "OLD" BOOKS for our FREE "Breakfast and a Book" Event!!!

On **February 19**, to encourage family literacy, there will be a free pancake breakfast and children's book swap held at the Clar-Mills (Plevna) hall from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

This is a **FREE** event so bring the whole family out. Enjoy a yummy **FREE** pancake and sausage breakfast, story time, then leave with a "new-to-you" book, **absolutely FREE!!!**

To make this event a success, we need you to donate any *gently used* children's books that you have grown out of, no longer read, or wish to pass on for another child to enjoy.

Bring your books into school and place them in the "**Book Bin**". We would prefer books be brought into the school by February 17, but you are welcome to bring them to breakfast on February 19, as well.

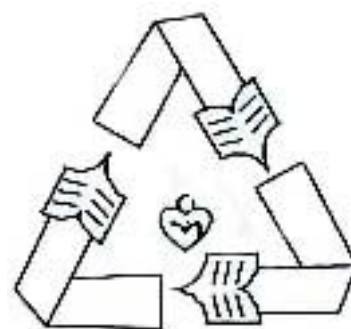
Everyone is welcome to participate in this **FREE** event, whether you are able to donate a book or not.

So come out with your family and enjoy a delicious breakfast, listen to a story, then leave with a "new" book!

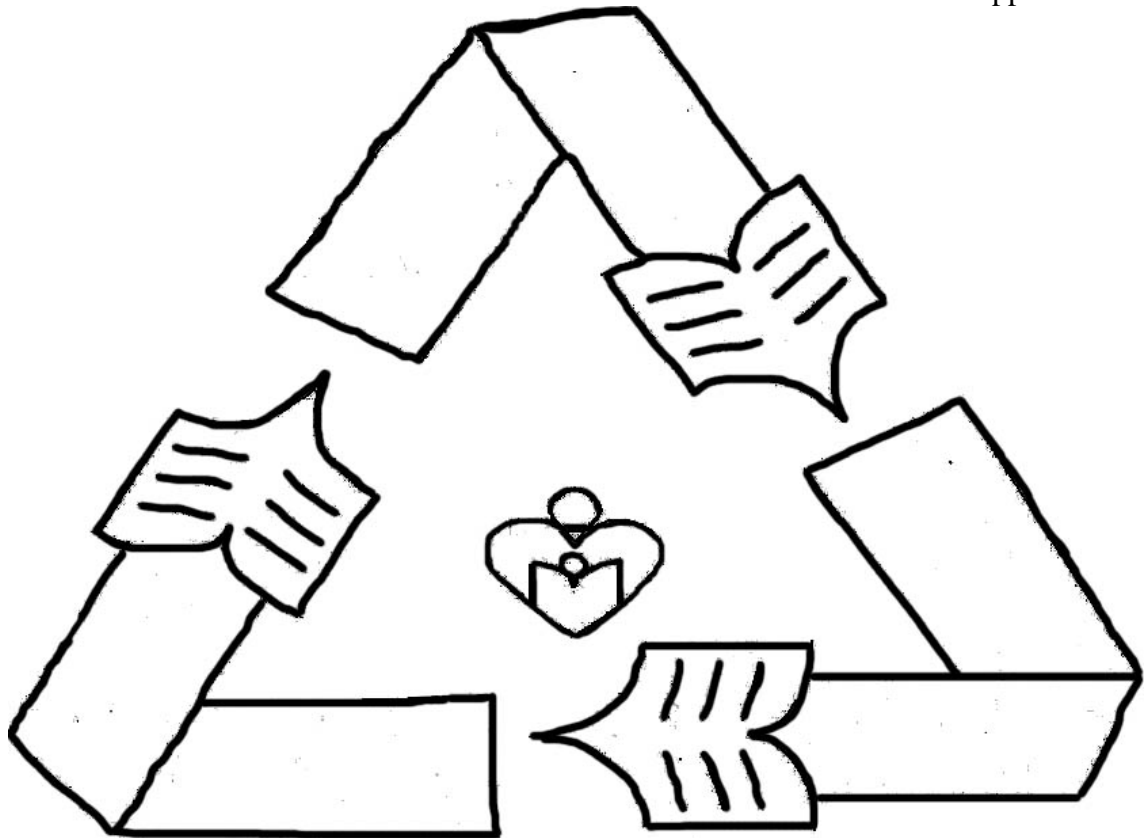
This event is brought to you by the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Committee, and the Support for Parents and Children in Education (S.P.A.C.E.) family literacy program, part of Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres and with funding by the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation.

Other exciting upcoming **FREE** S.P.A.C.E. events are:

- Breakfast and a Book
- Book Swap and Family Skate
- Homework Help Workshop for Parents
- Special Needs Workshop
- Oral History Scrapbooking Workshop



For more information, contact Krista Scott at 279-2499



***FREE Children's Book Swap and
Family Skate for Family Literacy!***

Join us for a FREE afternoon of FUN!

Where: North Frontenac Community Centre (Arena at
Piccadilly)

When: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Date: February 20/ 2005

Cost: **FREE! FREE! FREE!**

For more information contact Krista Scott at
Northern Connections Adult Learning Centre 279-2499



We Want Your “OLD” BOOKS for our FREE Book Swap!!!

On **February 20**, to encourage family literacy, there will be a children’s book swap held at the North Frontenac Community Centre (Piccadilly Arena) during the free family skate from 1 :00 p.m. to 2 :30 p.m.

This is a **FREE** event so bring the whole family out. Enjoy the **FREE** skate and leave with a “new-to-you” book, absolutely **FREE!!!**

To make this event a success, we need you to donate any **gently used** children’s books that you have grown out of, no longer read, or wish to pass on for another child to enjoy.

Bring your books into school and place them in the “**Book Bin**”. We would prefer books be brought into the school by February 18, but you are welcome to bring them to the arena on February 20, as well.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the **FREE** event, whether you are able to donate a book or not.

***So come out and enjoy some family skating time
and leave with a “new” book!***

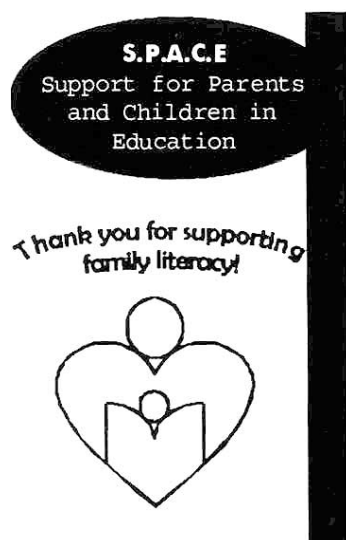
This event is brought to you by the Support for Parents and Children in Education (S.P.A.C.E.) family literacy program, part of Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres and with funding by the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation.

Other exciting upcoming **FREE** S.P.A.C.E. events are:

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- Special Needs Workshop
- Oral History Scrapbooking Workshop



For more information, contact Krista Scott at 279-2499



Northern Connections
Adult Learning Centres

24719 Hwy. 7 (P.O. Box 413)
Sharbot lake, ON K0H 2P0

Phone: (613) 279-2499

Fax: (613) 279-2022

Email: literacy@frontenac.net

Family Literacy Tips

- Read aloud at home
- Talk about your day/events.
- Write shopping lists and letters together.
- Spend time learning together.

These information cards were printed ten per page and attached to bags of candy for children to take home. We found that usually, children were more likely to visit our information display before their parents. The information tags and treat bags worked well to attract parents to find out more information from us.

Proposal and Schedule: "Breakfast and a Book" with the support and cooperation of the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Organization.

TIME:

9: 00-11: 00

OUTLINE:

Families will be welcome to enjoy a free pancake breakfast any time from 9:00-11:00 in the morning. Once they finish breakfast they may listen to a story read by our volunteers, then leave with a "new-to them" book from those donated by organizations and people of the community.

The purpose of this event is to offer a time of fellowship among families, provide "new" books to children, promote family literacy, and to increase awareness of our organizations and programs we offer.

We would need the hall to be booked for the morning, perhaps from 8:00-12:00 to allow for set up before and clean up after.

The support of the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture Organization will be key in making this event a success. We are looking forward to further planning this event together and to any assistance you might be able to offer, including people to help cook and run the event, assist with the book swap, and lend a hand wherever needed to ensure things flow smoothly.

Information about Us

The Support for Parents and Children in Education (S.P.A.CE.) program is run by Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres (N.C.A.L.C) in cooperation with, and funding from the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation. S.P.A.CE. is a new Family Literacy research project that will examine the need for various supports needed by parents in the rural areas of Frontenac. The goal of this program is for parents to gain the skills necessary to make them feel confident in dealing with the various aspects of their children's education. We believe that there is a need for support and information to be given to parents, and will use this project to identify in which areas this assistance is needed. Topics will be identified by questionnaires and parent groups, and addressed through workshops and information sessions for parents to attend **free** of charge. As a result, we would also like to take some time at the "Breakfast and a Book" event to talk with parents to learn more about the areas in which they feel they need support.

Books

We already have a number of books promised for the book swap from the Flinton Memorial Public Library and I am scheduled to speak with the principals of Clarendon Central Public School and North Addington Education Centre in the upcoming week. I hope to gain support from the schools by allowing a "Book Bin" to be placed in each of the schools for children to donate any gently used books they no longer want. If you know of anyone else who might have gently-used children's books to donate we would certainly appreciate it.

Breakfast supplies

- Big boxes of sausages (x3)
- 5 Kg bags of pancake mix (x3)
- Syrup (x4)
- Plates
- Forks, knives, spoons
- Butter/margarine
- Juice (x7 cans of frozen o.j.)
- Juice containers
- Coffee
- Coffee carafe
- Tea
- Tea carafe
- Cream/whitener
- Sugar
- Cups
- Electric frying pans and spatulas
- Napkins

The items listed here can be purchased from National Grocers in Kingston at reasonable prices. Dan Bush president of the Royal Canadian Legion in Sharbot Lake suggested the quantities.

We propose that if your organization is willing to cover the cost of renting the facility (Clar-Mills Hall) then we will cover the cost of the breakfast supplies listed above. If there are any items on the list (i .e. coffee carafe, electric frying pans, etc) that are already available please let us know ahead of time.

A number of volunteers from N.C.A.L.C will be able to help with the event but we are also asking that people from your organization assist with setting up, cooking, serving food, running the book swap, clean up, and even with reading stories in the book corner.

We are really excited about co-hosting this family literacy event and look forward to working with you to make it a success!

FREE events from Northern Connections

From book swaps, to a pancake breakfast, and workshops, the S.P.A.C.E. program at Northern Connections Adult learning Centres has been busy talking to parents in the area and promoting family literacy.

If you've visited many of the area schools over the past few weeks you might have seen the blue book bins in the main office or lobby. These were book collection bins for two events that were held in the area in support of Family Literacy.

On Saturday February 19 the S.P.A.C.E. program at Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres hosted Breakfast and a Book at the Clar-Mills hall in Plevna. A number of teen volunteers took this opportunity to make up some of their community help hours and had lots of fun preparing dozens of delicious pancakes and sausages. A sea of gently used children's books was laid out from which children could choose books to take home. All those in attendance had an enjoyable time and the children were excited to sort through the books to find a new reading treasure.

On February 20, 2005 a book swap was held during the free skate at the North Frontenac Community Centre, arena at Piccadilly. The skating rink was very busy with families enjoying the free skating time offered by the arena from 1:00-2:30 each Sunday and many people took advantage of warming up by the canteen and choosing a book or two from the hundreds of used books we had laid out.

Congratulations to the many lucky people walked away from our events not only with a new-to-them book but with also one of our fabulous door prizes.

Most recently, on February 26 a FREE Reading Strategies workshop was held at the Ontario Early Years, Child Centre in Sharbot Lake. Local parents had the opportunity to explore different ways that they can help their child have an enriching experience learning to read.

Our next workshop will be a Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for parents on March 9 from 5:30-7:00 pm. This is a no cost event with free childcare. There are still a few spaces available, so call 279-2400 to register.

Many thanks to Jim Stinson and the staff at the North Frontenac Community Centre for the numerous ways they offered support, and to Debbie Nesbitt-Monroe of Kingston Literacy for facilitating a fantastic workshop. Thank you to the Health, Postal Services, Recreation and Culture committee for providing the Clar-Mills hall, and to the schools in the area for promoting our events and generously donating books. Your support made our events the success that they were.

By Krista G. Scott

TWO FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS!!!

Reading Strategies Workshop

At the Ontario Early Years

Centre Sharbot Lake

February 26 March 9

10:30 am -12:00 noon

Register by February 21



Scrapbooking for Beginners

At the Ontario Early Years

Centre Sharbot Lake

5:30 pm -7:00 pm

Register by March 3

Space is limited!

Call Krista now to register at 279-2499



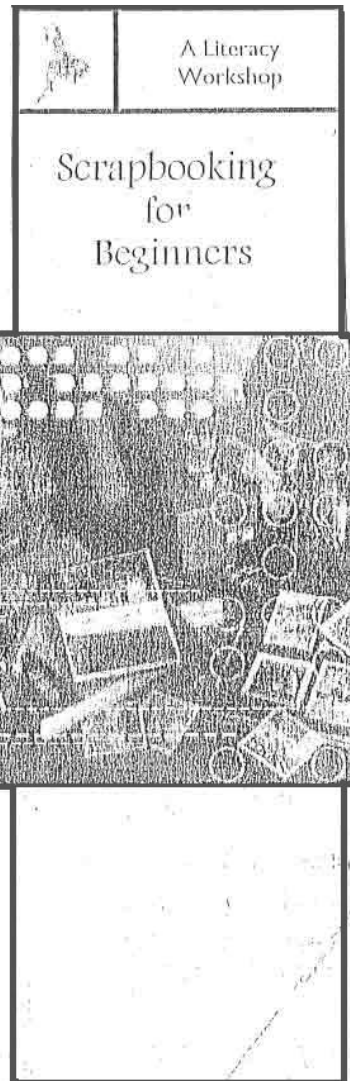
FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED



These events have been organized by the S.P.A.C.E.
program at Northern Connections Adult Learning
Centres with funding from Frontenac Community
Futures Development Corporation.

Scrapbooking with your kids is a great way to spend time with them and be creative. Some good ideas include:

-

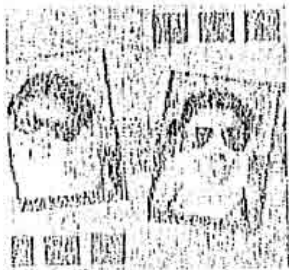


Some great scrapbooking websites:

www.twopeasinabucket.com “Peanut Gallery” has a lot of really good examples of what other scrapers are doing.

www.scrapyourstories.com/kidstarters.htm. Basic advice includes a list of the five basic steps to creating a layout.

Scrapbooking Basics



Scrapbooking has been done for ages. Originally they were designed to display minor mementoes, like a love letter or an interesting poem, paper flowers, feathers, and other objects that held meaning for their creator. The original scrapbooking "how-to" book was written in 1826 by John Poole. It presented creative ways to display poems, journal writings and plain old scraps.

Pictures documenting our lives are very important to current and future generations. The pictures we take of family and friends just doing everyday stuff, as well as those that we take for special occasions are there to provide us with employment. They are the witness to our life.

Creating a scrapbook is an important way to pass on the traditions and heritage from one generation to the next.

THE SECRETS TO SCRAPBOOKING

There are three secrets to scrapbooking: planning your playouts, organizing your photos and claiming a workplace.

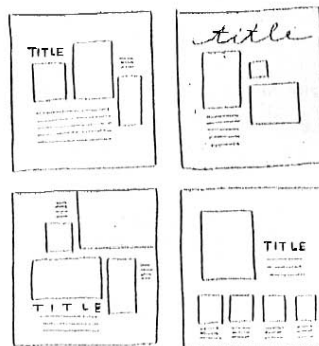
Planning your layouts, before you cut or glue anything will ensure that the final product is something to be proud of.

Steps to Making a Scrapbook from Existing Photos:

1. Decide on your theme, if you want one.
2. Choose your photos
3. Plan your layout..
4. Plan and write your journaling on a scarp paper or in a journal.
5. Plan your cropping to fit theme and focus on the subject of the photo.
6. Layout everything on your page.
7. Crop and mount.
8. Journal
9. Decorate
10. Done!

What do I need to get started?
Photos, pens, markers, Acid and Lignin free paper products, scissors, glue, adhesive, ruler, album and page protectors.

Layout Ideas:



Journaling is writing that tells the story of your pictures and the events that happen around them. If your choose not to journal you are missing a very big part of scrapbooking and

your scrapbook will not hold as much value to you or those around you. Journaling allows you to put into word the emotions and conversations that were going on when the picture was taken.

The journal section of your layout should include
-names
-dates
-story behind the photos
-poems or quotes
-titles

The amount and content of the journaling is connected to the purpose of the layout or album and what you will most want to remember.

Some ideas for Journaling

Write about one special memory about each family member.

What are the most important life lessons you've learned that you want to pass to younger generations of your family?

Describe a memorable card or present you received from a family member.

Think of scents that remind you of home...of particular family members. Ex: bread, cookies, pine, etc.

Describe your favorite meal.

What was your first job?

What are some chores each member of your family is responsible for?

Who are the teachers or mentors who have influenced your family?

What vehicles has your family owned?

What talents do your family members possess?

Free! Free! Free!



Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for parents and caregivers

Date: **March 30**

Time: **6:00-8:00 pm**

Where: **Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation in Harrowsmith**

Who: **Hosted by Northern Connections
Adult Learning Centres**

Cost: **FREE** - including all scrapbooking supplies, and refreshments for participants.

How: **Call** Krista at Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres, (613) 279-2499 or email kscott.ncalc@bellnet.ca to register.

- Come out and learn the basics - how to go from a few pictures and paper to a beautifully completed page, created by you, that nicely displays your photographs and tells a story. •

FRONTENAC NEWS
More FREE events from Northern Connections:

Scrapbooking Workshop

By: Krista G. Scott

There are several new "Scrappers" in the area. On Wednesday, March 9th we hosted a beginners scrapbooking workshop for parents and caregivers. This workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all. Cindi Scott, who facilitated the workshop, has been scrapbooking for a number of years. We were very fortunate to have her share her ideas and expertise with those who attended the workshop. One participant said, "I'm hooked. I hadn't done anything like this before but now I can't wait to do it again!" Several parents said that they would like to get together once or twice a month, on their own, to chat, share supplies, ideas, and work together. It is great to see people getting excited about trying new things, finding new ways to document their family's history and stories, and to watch family literacy at work. We would like to send a big "Thank - You" to the Ontario Early Years Centre, The Child Centre for the use of your wonderful facility, and to Marcie Webster for her terrific childcare.

If you missed out on this workshop, don't worry. We are hosting another **Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop** for parents and caregivers at the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation in Harrowsmith, on March 30 from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a FREE event including all scrapbooking supplies, as well as refreshments for participants. Come out and learn the basics of how to go from a few pictures and paper to a beautifully completed page, created by you, that nicely displays your photographs and tells a story about them.

To register for this workshop please call Krista at Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres 279-2499.

This event and the S.P.A.C.E. program are being funded by the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation through the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF). The EODF is a \$10-million Government of Canada initiative announced last spring. It promotes socio-economic development in rural Eastern Ontario, contributes to the successful development of business and job opportunities as well as sustainable self-reliant communities, and will lead to a competitive and diversified regional Economy.

GAZETTE

FREE events from Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres

By: Krista G. Scott

N.C.AL.C. (Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres), in Sharbot Lake is working on a family literacy research project entitled S.P.A.C.E. (Support for Parents and Children in Education). As part of this project we have offered a number of events and workshops for parents, caregivers, and children to participate in, FREE of charge.

Recently, we hosted a Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for parents and caregivers in Sharbot Lake. The response to the event was very positive and all of the participants enjoyed themselves. For most of them, it was their first time trying anything like that, but they were all very excited to leave the workshop with a completed, or in some cases nearly completed, scrapbooking page that they had created. It was great to see people getting excited about trying new things, finding new ways to document their family's history and stories, and to watch family literacy at work.

On March 30, from 6:00-8:00 pm, Northern Connections Adult Learning Centres are hosting a Beginners Scrapbooking Workshop for parents and caregivers at the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation in Harrowsmith. This is a FREE event including all scrapbooking supplies, as well as refreshments for participants. Come out and learn the basics of how to go from a few pictures and paper to a beautifully completed page, created by you, that nicely displays your photographs and tells a story about them.

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