



# **Family Connections:** **1998 Directory of** **Family Literacy Projects** **Across Canada**

*edited by*  
Adele Thomas  
Sharon Skage  
Ronna Jackson

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## About the Editors

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# Introduction

The 1998 Directory of Family Literacy Projects represents an opportunity to recognize and celebrate projects that have supported the literacy development of families across the country. The last decade has witnessed an increase in the number of programs which are grounded in an understanding of the important role of families in the literacy development of children. In the last several years, practitioners have attended provincial or national literacy conferences and admired the different initiatives that communities have devised to develop literacy partnerships with families. Nevertheless, the sharing of program strategies and family learning success has tended to be piecemeal and sporadic, due to geographic and cultural disparities and differences in how literacy is administered in various provinces and territories.

It is often difficult for community organizations to learn about new family literacy projects or resources that could be adapted to their community needs. Electronic communication is breaking down barriers to sharing information about family literacy and the success of the National Adult Literacy Database (NALD) represents a major advance in networking access. However, many community-based projects with limited computer capability still find it difficult to avail themselves of such services. At the same time, many local family literacy projects, on tight budgets and fully absorbed in providing service in their communities, have been unable to disseminate project information to other interested practitioners or groups. Thus the pool of shared information about family literacy has remained limited.

In developing the 1998 Directory we attempted to systematically locate and request project information from a wide range of community organizations across the country. In our experience there has been an increase in interagency collaboration and a blending of literacy with other family services, such as health centres and family resource programs. Thus, our criteria for consideration as a family literacy project were broad in order to encourage participation by organizations which might not ordinarily view themselves as literacy service providers.

During our initial planning, francophone literacy associations expressed their eagerness to develop a companion document for family literacy, which would reflect the distinct approaches developed within francophone communities. Consequently, the present Directory refers only to anglophone submissions. At the same time, a national aboriginal literacy program study is currently under way (Globensky, 1998) to document and analyze native literacy programs in order to provide provincial and national perspectives on aboriginal literacy and make recommendations. In view of this current work and the limited information available on aboriginal family literacy initiatives, the reader is directed to the Globensky study.

Through a telephone/fax and mail campaign, approximately 350 community organizations were contacted. These organizations included a range of literacy groups and governmental agencies that were information sources for locating family literacy projects, or conducted family literacy initiatives as part

of their services. Letters were mailed to project coordinators of community organizations, and to literacy practitioners, explaining our purpose and plans (see Appendix 1).

We were heartened by the responsive interest in the Directory. We received a total of 175 program descriptions, of which 161 were accepted. Those not considered tended to be projects which were traditional adult basic education programs without a family literacy component, parenting workshops which did not include related caregiver-child literacy activities, or tutoring projects which did not directly involve families or home literacy connections. When there was a question about an aspect of a written description, follow-up telephone calls were made for clarification.

The Directory presents an overview of on-going family literacy initiatives across the country. Summaries of individual projects, listed by province, include details on resources for practitioners and learners. Project descriptions also contain contact information to facilitate practitioner networking. There are separate listings for national organizations that have developed family literacy initiatives. In addition, Appendix 2 contains a list of provincial literacy organizations that may provide information on activities in family literacy. A special section has also been included to index family materials, workshop information and other resources created by various projects in the Directory.

As we went about completing the Directory, we received calls from project staff across the country, who were either not sure what was meant by the term "family literacy" or who wanted clarification on how we defined the term. It was clear that while some projects, such as parenting programs did engage families in literacy activity, they did not consider their work as family literacy. Others, while confident that they were involved in literacy activity, were not sure whether they qualified as "family literacy." Usually a short conversation cleared up any difficulty, but this experience underscored one aspect of the current status of the field of family literacy practice. Family literacy is still a new and largely unknown field.

Many practitioners who are successfully engaged in partnerships with parents may be relatively unfamiliar with the research support for family literacy intervention, the range of project alternatives possible, or issues related to learner centered focus and empowerment through family literacy participation. While it is not the purpose of this volume to elaborate on these aspects in detail, in the next sections we have prepared a brief review of family literacy definition and background information, together with resources for further investigation.

### **What is family literacy?**

The term family literacy was first coined by Denny Taylor in her 1983 study which explored the social context of the home as a key factor in the literacy development of young children. Neither in the initiatives and studies that pre-date Taylor's work, nor in the broad range of family literacy activities that have taken place since, is there a single, commonly-accepted definition of what the term means. It has been used to indicate "1) interest in the way literacy is used within families, 2) the study of relationships between literacy use in families

and children's academic achievement, and 3) the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs to facilitate the literacy development of families" (Tracey, 1995, p. 281).

Many definitions of family literacy have been suggested during the fifteen years that have passed since Taylor's first study was published (Morrow, Paratore, & Tracey, 1994; Taylor, 1997). The variety evident in these definitions mirrors the diversity of programs and activities that take place in order to match the diverse cultural contexts of the families who participate. For the purposes of this directory, we are using the following definitions:

**Family literacy** refers to the many ways families develop and use literacy skills to accomplish day-to-day tasks and activities. Examples of family literacy might include writing a note to a child's teacher, sharing a bedtime story, making shopping lists, and using a recipe. As well, adult reading and writing for different purposes at home, and literacy-related adult discussions typify family literacy, where adults may be literacy role models in the home (Barton, 1997).

**Family literacy projects** refer to a broad spectrum of initiatives that recognize the influence of the family on the literacy development of family members, and try to support families in literacy activity and in accessing literacy resources. There are many types of family literacy projects; a few examples include storytelling or reading circles, parenting sessions with shared reading, homework clubs where parents participate, adult education using family experiences or children's literature, and book bags for parents and babies.

References to *family* in definitions of family literacy usually assume some essential aspects which relate to the structure, function, and development of the family unit (Bailey & Simeonsson, 1988). Structure of the family refers to relationships among family members and the extent to which those relationships determine how the family deals with daily tasks. Socio-cultural influences in the last two decades have significantly altered our views of what families should "look like." Today, there are many combinations of caregivers and children and it is likely that many children will live in more than one type of family before reaching adulthood (Canadian Council on Social Development, 1997).

In addition to family structure, the functional aspect of families refers to the responsibilities assumed by family members, that contribute to the adaptation of individual members and the family as a unit. Among functions specific to the family, affection, guidance, education, and socialization have been identified, along with caregiver roles of teacher, money manager, health care provider, disciplinarian (Bailey & Simeonsson, 1988). The extent to which various family roles are adopted by individual caregivers is unique to each family.

Developmental characteristics of families refer to the formative stages of the family unit through childbearing, childrearing, the launching of adult children and the later life of adult caregivers. These progressive changes in family life are also affected by a variety of social, economic, and cultural factors which affect family adaptation and individual differences in families. Given the complex characteristics involved in defining *family*, when used in conjunction with

family literacy, the trend toward broad definitions of family literacy serve to avoid value judgments and over-simplification about what should be considered typical for families.

### **Why is family literacy important?**

A child's literacy development begins at birth, and is shaped by his or her experiences in the first years of life. Children acquire language, and develop pre-literacy and literacy skills, by observing the way language and literacy are valued and used as tools to achieve specific and self-evident results.

These early years of language acquisition provide a critical foundation that affects children's school experience and eventually, their life chances and well-being. (However,... not all children develop at the same rate. By the time they reach compulsory school age there are significant differences in their skills, including verbal skills and literacy proficiency. These differences are largely attributable to the effects of socialization, particularly within the family. (Human Resources Development Canada & Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 1997, pp.61-62)

The ways that literacy is used in the home and the extent to which it is used are affected by many social and cultural factors. Parents and caregivers often consciously provide opportunities that support their family's literacy development, or these things may happen spontaneously. Often literacy activities take place in the home, but parents may need support in providing bridging activities that prepare their children for school. It also happens that parents may not recognize the importance of the home environment to their children's literacy development, or assume that their children start learning to read and write when they begin school.

Family literacy programs have been able to successfully recruit and hold adults, because this approach recognizes and respects the important roles and responsibilities that adults have undertaken as parents. In family literacy programs which target adults as literacy learners, a meaningful context for reading, writing, and numeracy activities is developed, based on the functions these literacy skills serve in maintaining the well-being of the family. Many adults in these programs find self confidence and direction for personal development based on the family literacy work accomplished.

Supporting parents and caregivers of young children in their role as a child's first teacher has a positive impact on families' literacy skills and attitudes towards learning. Family literacy programs are one way to provide families with purposeful ways of extending literacy activities within the home in ways that are culturally meaningful to family members. Family literacy intervention has additional effects outside the home for adults who develop positive relationships with educators and attain educational and job goals. The school effects of family literacy have been more clearly understood as the "home advantage" (Lareau, 1995), in recognition of the fact that children who have had a wealth of early reading and writing experiences at home come to school better able to achieve established literacy learning expectations.

While public attention is often focused on family literacy influence and the development of the child, it should be recalled that family literacy has been

recognized as an effective adult literacy strategy, associated with increasing the literacy participation rates and educational levels of adult students (Philliber, Spillman, & King, 1996). It has become well known that young, educationally disadvantaged caregivers are usually not able to take advantage of adult education opportunities, when such services do not offer childcare. But, while childcare may be a necessary prerequisite, it is not sufficient to keep adult learners in literacy programs. Often the learning environment of traditional adult education does not address the needs and interests of caregivers whose concern for parenting and the care of their young families may be dominant over any motivation for academic upgrading or job training (Paratore, 1993).

### History of Family Literacy

The first family literacy programs - programs aimed at supporting families in their literacy development - began in Israel, the United States, and England in the 1970's and 1980's. By the early 1980's family literacy programs were also beginning to appear in Canada. Among the first documented programs in this country were the inner-city parenting centres established by the Toronto School Board in 1981, *J'apprends avec mon enfant* in Montreal in 1983, and Book-mates in Winnipeg in 1984. By 1997, family literacy programs could be found in all ten provinces and the Northwest Territories. Libraries, schools, churches, health units, and community centres are just some of the places where families have found support for their literacy development.

In addition to local programs and activities, provincial and national projects have taken place to raise awareness of the importance of literacy in the family, as in the Literacy Begins at Home campaign undertaken by Canada Post Corporation and ABC Canada. This initiative not only succeeded in raising awareness of family literacy through its unusual and attractive postage stamp, but it also raised money for distribution to the country's family literacy programs.

Support for family literacy in Canada has come from a number of special interest groups and family literacy organizations. In 1988, the Family Literacy Interest Group of Ontario (FLIG) was founded to identify issues related to family literacy and to advocate for funding of programs. FLIG's activities also included presentations, hosting provincial family literacy conferences, publishing a manual on family literacy, and providing support and information. The organization ceased its operations in 1995.

Another provincial family literacy organization, the Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta (FLAG), was formed in 1993. FLAG was an ad-hoc committee made up of individuals who saw the potential of family literacy for preventing the cycle of low literacy skills and for strengthening the family. In its four years of activities, FLAG provided support to practitioners and interested agencies through information, networking, and publication of resources. It also worked to promote and celebrate family literacy through participation in public forums, workshops, and conferences. The materials and work of FLAG have now been transferred to Prospects Literacy Association and its community

partners, who are in the first stages of creating a provincial centre for family literacy.

Many of Canada's provincial literacy organizations have played a key role in the growth of family literacy. For example, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network took an early interest in promoting and supporting the development of family literacy projects in that province. Some provincial departments of education have also played an important role, as is the case in Nova Scotia. In Quebec, school boards have been at the forefront of family literacy research and program delivery.

A number of conferences have also served to provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of work on family literacy. In 1994, the *Celebrating Family and Community* conference was hosted in Saskatoon by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network and the Saskatchewan Council for Educators of Non-English Speakers. In the same year the *National Conference on Family Literacy* was held in Ottawa, sponsored by the National Ad Hoc Family Literacy Group. A national symposium on family literacy, *L'alphabétisation familiale en français*, was held in Aylmer, also in 1994.

The history of family literacy in Canada would not be complete without recognition of the role that the federal government has played. The National Literacy Secretariat (NLS), formed in 1988, has taken the mandate to promote literacy as an essential component for a learning society and to make Canada's social, economic and political life more accessible through literacy development. Over the years NLS has provided funding for several innovative projects that have moved the practice and study of family literacy forward. In 1997-98 family literacy was given special recognition as a priority for funding, along with workplace literacy and literacy infrastructure support.

The number and range of family literacy activities and initiatives that have taken place in Canada in the last two decades is impressive. Much of the focus has been on providing and supporting local programming, but progress has also been made in the way of identifying broader issues and developing strategies to address those issues.

### Current Issues in Family Literacy Practice

Early in the development of family literacy intervention strategies, concern was raised whenever family literacy practice seemed to be founded on notions of family deficit which perpetuated stereotypes of families as inadequate to manage their own and their children's literacy development (Auerbach, 1989). Views of family literacy deficits included references such as disadvantaged, literacy impoverished homes, and illiteracy as an intergenerational disease. These views were considered negative stereotypes because they depicted families as doomed to a generational cycle of poverty, unemployment, and family disruption. At the same time, this cycle could be broken if families acquiesced to interventions which reconnected caregiver-child interactions to reading enjoyment. This "fix-it" approach to family literacy failed to recognize the strengths that poor families used in their daily lives and did not encourage true collaboration with families.

Concern continues today about how family literacy programs might be structured, whereby some might send subtle messages of inadequacy and end up demeaning and alienating exactly those families they were designed to assist. Family literacy projects are cautioned to strive to engage parents as partners, to respect and celebrate their participation, and to collaborate with families as equal partners to set literacy goals that they choose for their children (Grant, 1997).

Another related critical issue in family literacy practice centres on conflict between the cultural and language resources of the families who participate and the pressure to promote school-like literacy practices. The distinction between school-based and home-based literacy is noteworthy. School-based literacy refers to the ways in which language and print are used for success in school. Reading, understanding explanations, and answering decontextualized questions not related to the here and now are some common school expectations. While families may engage in a variety of culturally grounded literacy activities at home, these may not necessarily prepare children for the language of school or for the familiarity with print needed to accomplish many school tasks.

This distinction is important, because when literacy assistance is offered to families, often the program goals and interest are in the development of school-like literacy, while families may continue to be unclear on how this relates to their lives or their children's needs. Grant (1997, p. 221) emphasizes the importance of respecting family cultural values and language:

Keys to successful family literacy are sharing personal strengths and partnership and community resources. Compensatory programs are likely to be limited by providers' attempts to impose programs on those who are deemed to need them. When providers work with and alongside parents and community agencies, sharing the power and the resources and collaborating on decision making, they are repositioned to allow the families to identify their own and their children's needs and desires in relation to literacy. Families' preferred ways of thinking and being might then be listened to and enlisted to bring about family literacy programs that are successful from the participants' point of view.

As the field of family literacy has developed, a number of program development and maintenance issues have emerged. Recruitment of families, ensuring funding stability and fund raising activities, increasing public and political awareness, program evaluation and staff development are topics which consistently top the list of concerns raised by practitioners. As well, there is increasing interest in establishing an agenda for future family literacy policy and research. For more information on these issues, the reader is directed to recent case studies of family literacy practice in Canada (Thomas, 1998).

### **Overview of Family Literacy Initiatives**

A review of the family literacy project descriptions contained in the Directory reaffirms that there is considerable interest and activity in family literacy

across Canada. The range of project options and the diversity of settings attest that there is broad-based community support for family literacy. Families participated in a variety of project formats. These included workshops for adult caregiver groups, home visits, parent-child read and play groups, informal drop in centres, book bags for home use, homework programs, information kits for parents of newborns.

Trends that emerged from analysis of projects across provinces may be summarized as follows:

- **Collaboration**

Many initiatives involved more than one supporting organization and a mix of private, local, and governmental support was common, including sharing of resources and staff. Increasingly, family literacy activities have been integrated in parenting support services offered by family resource and health centres.

- **Volunteers**

Projects frequently relied on support from volunteers to provide direct service and resources, from leading reading groups to making book bags and new baby kits.

- **Focus on early literacy development and enjoyment of shared reading**

Community and project interest has centred on young families, where shared reading activities are preferred, although some projects have addressed family literacy with older children (homework, tutoring).

- **Diversity of settings**

Project locations have included libraries, schools, health clinics and hospitals, homeless shelters, housing centres, food banks, shopping malls, family support services, and church halls.

- **Short duration, minimal intervention**

By and large, most initiatives have involved families for a few hours a week, for periods of several weeks to several months. In the case of book bag projects, contact with families may be minimal.

Based on the range of family literacy projects portrayed in the 1998 Directory, family literacy has a solid foundation throughout Canada. As we look ahead to the future, it will be necessary to continue to nurture the investment that has been made in family literacy initiatives and proceed to the next generation of family literacy intervention, in which issues related to staff development, program evaluation, research, and integrated policy for families and children receive further attention.

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# National Literacy Organizations with Family Literacy Initiatives

The following list of national organizations will be helpful in identifying family literacy activities, resources, and assistance which may be linked to local family literacy initiatives. New projects are frequently introduced through national initiatives with local partnerships and community participation.

*ABC Canada* focuses on public awareness and helping the private sector establish basic education programs in the workplace. If you know someone who needs help with reading, writing and math, or if you would like to find out how you can help a literacy organization in your community, look under "Learn" in the yellow pages of your telephone directory.

1450 Don Mills Road, Don Mills, ON M3B 2X7. Tel: (416) 442-2292,  
Fax: (416) 442-2293, email: calbiston@southam.ca.

*Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (CAFRP)*, originally founded in 1975 as an association of toy libraries, provides leadership and communication resources for provincial family resource programs. It sponsors a variety of initiatives, such as Campaign 2000, a national coalition against child poverty, an annual national convention and a newsletter, *Play and Parenting Connection*. Family literacy initiatives are integral activities in family resource programs. 107-30 Rosemount Ave., Ottawa ON K1Y 1P4. Tel: (613) 728-3307,  
Fax: (613) 729-5421.

*Canadian Give the Gift of Literacy Foundation* was created by the book and periodical industry to raise awareness of literacy development and assist communities to promote reading and writing. The Foundation provides grants of between \$750.00 and \$5000.00 to adult literacy organizations to produce learner materials and practitioner training resources. 24 Ryerson Ave., Toronto ON M5T 2P3. Tel: (416) 366-4482.

*Canadian Children's Literature Service at the National Library of Canada* provides reference, research and bibliographic services to teachers, librarians, researchers and children's literature enthusiasts from around the world. Their collection of over 30, 000 titles dates from the 19th century to the present, and includes books written in English, French and other languages. 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0N4. Tel: (613) 996-7774,  
Fax: (613)995-1969, email: clsslj@nlc-inc.ca.

*Canadian Library Association* has developed the Action for Literacy Interest Group to promote literacy issues related to library settings and to work with other national literacy organizations such as the Movement for Canadian Literacy and the National Adult Literacy Database. The Group publishes a newsletter which includes reports of activities, articles, and resource information. The Action for Literacy Interest Group sponsors events at the Annual Confer-

ence of the CLA. Recent accomplishments have included the preparation of a "libraries and literacy" bibliography, the National Working Summit on Libraries and Literacy, and support for the Canadian Literacy Thesaurus project. 602-200 Elgin Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1L5. Tel: (613) 232-9625, Fax: (613) 563-9895.

*Canada Post* brings its expertise and encouragement to Canadians about the joys of reading and writing. Because Canada's future prosperity depends on the well-being of children, family literacy is of special interest with the aim of encouraging parents and children to read and write. Canada Post's support for family literacy has included a wide range of activities as follows:

*"Get Writing!" The National Contest for Canada's Next Generation of Writers.* This contest gives children in Grades 2-6 a chance to publish their own book in English or French. Canada Post sponsored the distribution of contest posters to more than 12,000 elementary schools across Canada.

*Ben Wicks' "Born to Read and Write."* Canada Post delivered this family literacy book by celebrated Canadian author Ben Wicks free of charge to nearly two million children in more than 12,000 elementary schools across Canada.

*Cahier spécial en alphabétisation.* More than 52,000 copies of this literacy workbook, published by the La Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français, were distributed free of charge to French Canadian schools, community radio stations and literacy organizations.

*Children's Books for the Library for the Blind.* Canada Post sponsored the translation of 20 children's books - 10 French and 10 English- into Braille for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). The books are available to children throughout Canada from the CNIB's Library for the Blind - mailed free of postage as is all literature for the blind.

*Mots' Magie en compagnie. Literature, Interpretation, Scene,* an innovative company of bilingual performers, bring the wonders of reading and writing to life for children in a series of entertaining and educational interactive performances. Canada Post is the sponsor of 40 performances taking place in Ontario and Quebec.

*Creating a Learning Culture in the Home.* Canada Post is a sponsor of this national series of family literacy workshops organized by Laubach Literacy of Canada. The workshops give parents and other caregivers practical guidance in helping children to develop positive self-esteem and develop skills necessary for success in reading and writing.

*Read Up On It.* The Corporation sponsors this catalogue of Canadian children's literature distributed by the National Library of Canada to more than 20,000 public and school libraries.

Every year, Santa Claus answers letters from children, a program Canada Post promotes to encourage children to develop their writing skills. This year more than 13,000 employees volunteered to respond to more than a million letters from children.

Suite N061, 2701 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0B1. Tel: (613) 734-6398; Fax: (613) 734-8814; website: <http://www.mailposte.ca>.

*Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF)* is a network of community based Home and School Associations or councils involving parents and teachers in partnership with local service clubs, professional organizations and community groups. In 1990, the *Literacy Exchange* project was introduced to inform communities of the impact of new technologies on children and youth, to promote skills essential to literacy through activities at home and in the community. A resourcebook has been developed to assist in starting a *Literacy Exchange*.

For more information, contact CHSF national office,  
Suite 1240-427 Laurier Ave., Ottawa ON K1R 7Y2; Tel: (613) 234-7292.

*Child and Family Canada* is a website initiated by the Canadian Child Care Federation, with support from Human Resources Development Canada and Industry Canada. It was developed through the cooperation of non-profit organizations committed to the health and well-being of children and their families. The site contains information and resources on a range of topics related to child care, literacy and child development.

<http://www.cfc.cymbiont.ca/startup/about.htm>.

*Fédération canadienne pour l'alphabétisation en français (FCAF)* is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting literacy in the French language.

205-235 Montreal Rd., Vanier ON K1L 6C7. Tel: (613) 749-5333,  
Fax: (613) 749-2252, email: [alpha@fcfafranco.ca](mailto:alpha@fcfafranco.ca).

*Frontier College's* original aim was to make education accessible to labourers in the work camps of Canada. While this program continues to this day, Frontier College has also responded to the literacy needs of urban "frontiers." Family literacy goals include: helping children and families to develop literacy skills through a love of reading and books, working in communities that do not have easy access to books and reading, and providing training and assistance to develop family literacy programs.

The Reading Circle is one example of a family initiative that Frontier College uses to bring children and parents together to enjoy books and stories. Across Canada there are over 700 Reading Circles in a variety of community locations. Reading circles meet once a week for an hour with parents, children and volunteers enjoying stories and books. Volunteer/parent training and resource materials are provided by Frontier College.

The Reading Tent is another example of a family initiative offered by Frontier College that is used in communities to promote reading and books to children, families, and the general public. Reading Tents are often part of community events and include a quiet spot indoors or outdoors where families can stop by the tent to read a story with their children.

For more information, contact Frontier College at 35 Jackes Avenue,  
Toronto ON M4T 1E2. Tel: (416) 923-3591 or toll free at 800-555-6523,  
Fax: (416) 323-3522, email: [Frontier\\_College@edu.yorku.ca](mailto:Frontier_College@edu.yorku.ca).

*Laubach Literacy of Canada* is committed to raising literacy awareness in Canada. Laubach provides training to improve basic and functional skills in read-

ing, writing, listening, numeracy, and other life skills.  
60-C Elizabeth St., P.O. Box 298, Bedford PQ J0J 1A0. Tel: (514) 248-2898,  
Fax: (514) 248-7054, email: laubach@acces-cible.net;

*Movement for Canadian Literacy* represents literacy coalitions, organizations, and individuals from every province and territory.  
458 MacLaren St., 2nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1R 5K6. Tel: (613) 563-2464,  
Fax: (613) 563-2504, email: mcl@magi.com.

*National Adult Literacy Database Inc.* (NALD) is a federally incorporated, non-profit service organization. It is a comprehensive, up-to-date database of adult literacy programs, resources, services and activities across Canada. It also links with other services and databases in North America and overseas. NALD helps users build on the experience of over 5,900 contacts and programs (including Adult Basic Education, ESL, and FSL programs) from Newfoundland to the Yukon. NALD disseminates information through a website (see below), a toll-free telephone line, and a quarterly newsletter called *Networks*.

NALD is funded by Human Resources and Development Canada's National Literacy Secretariat, and supported by the Government of New Brunswick, Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology, the Movement for Canadian Literacy, the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and ABC Canada.

Scovil House, 703 Brunswick Street, Fredericton NB E3B 1H8.  
Tel: (506) 457-6900 or toll-free at 800-720-NALD (6253), Fax: (506) 457-6910,  
e-mail: info@nald.ca.

*National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources and Development Canada (HRDC)* acts as a catalyst and facilitator for literacy issues in Canada, forging cooperative relationships with public and private sector partners in a national effort to create a more literate Canada.  
National Literacy Secretariat, HRDC, Ottawa ON K1A 1K5. Tel: (819) 953-5280,  
TDD: (819) 953-2338; Fax: (819) 953-8076, email: nls@fox.nstn.ca.

*Nobody's Perfect of Health Canada* is a training resource developed in 1988 to promote parenting skills and child development. Trained personnel are available at the provincial level through local health units. It is estimated that there are approximately 400 active Nobody's Perfect facilitators across Canada and there are program coordinators in every province and territory. The Nobody's Perfect workshop series is offered as a component of community based programs. Workshop topics include parent-child relations, accident prevention, emotional and intellectual development of children, child growth and health, and parenting.

Five colourfully illustrated paperbacks written in simple language have been prepared for parent use in the Nobody's Perfect program. For more information, contact Nobody's Perfect National Office, 1430 Prince of Wales Drive, P.O. Box 38065, Ottawa, ON K2C 3X7.  
Tel: (613) 728-3307, Fax: (613) 729-5421, email: np-yapp@frp.ca.



## Family Literacy Projects in Alberta

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### *Babies in the Library, Time for 2's, and Stories and Stuff*

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#### **Address**

810 5th Ave. S.  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C4  
Tel: (403) 380-7325  
Fax: (403) 329-1478  
Email:  
rmcmahon@chinookaveh.ab.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Ruth McMahan

#### **Partnerships**

- Lethbridge Public Library

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To introduce parents to the importance of oral literacy and to engage their children in these activities;
- To introduce a routine of visiting the library;
- To introduce families to a love of story and books.

#### **Project Description**

These three programs, sponsored by the Lethbridge Public Library, were developed to meet the oral literacy needs of preschoolers. Each program is designed with a certain age group in mind. The materials range from nursery rhymes, to songs, to stories (which are told not read). Attendance increases every year. More sections are added as needed.

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### *Books for Babies*

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#### **Address**

Box 659  
Elnora, AB T0M 0Y0  
Tel: (403) 773-3636  
Fax: (403) 773-3949

#### **Contact Person**

Penny S. Ibernagel

#### **Partnerships**

- Elnora/Delburne Schools, Elnora Health Centre
- Delburne Friendship Group, Great Bend Ladies Group
- Jim Lyle, Elnora/Delburne Family and Community Social Services
- Acadia Women's Institute, Royal Canadian Legion

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To deliver information to new parents on the importance of reading to their children;
- To help parents teach their children;
- To help parents teach their children to enjoy books and reading at an early age;
- To promote reading as a family activity.

#### **Project Description**

Books for Babies is a preventative program which began in April 1997 and continues today. Local fundraising provides enough money to assemble 50 book bags, which are then divided between the Elnora and Delburne Community Health Centres.

Included in each book bag are: 2 books, a colouring book, literature promoting literacy and language development in families, a questionnaire about the program, and the contact name/number of the literacy coordinator who would be available for consultation.

Book bags are distributed to the parents of preschoolers by Public

Health Nurses at Baby Wellness Centres. At present 30 preschool children have been reached. Public Health Nurses report a positive response to the program, with many parents expressing great interest in literacy and language development.

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### ***Books for Babies***

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#### **Address**

Box 535  
Killam, AB T0B 2L0  
Tel: (403) 385-3900  
Fax: (403) 385-3528  
Email: feip@telusplanet.net

#### **Contact Person**

Margaret O'Reilly

#### **Partnerships**

- Flagstaff Literacy Project
- County Church Organizations
- Strome CWL
- Argyle Women's League
- 2 seniors from Lougheed

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To encourage parents to start reading to their infants;
- To provide tips to parents for encouraging their children's early literacy development.

#### **Project Description**

Books for Babies provides a complimentary, handmade fabric book bag to every baby born in the County of Flagstaff. Each gift bag contains a board book, a bib, a bookmark, and informative literature stressing the importance of reading to children. The project is run by volunteers. They make the book bags and supply the fabric/notions for the bags. Fundraising is done in the County to cover the cost of the books. Books for Babies has been in operation for three years, and is on-going. In 1997 alone, Books for Babies gave book bags to

150 newborns in the County of Flagstaff.

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### ***Books for Babies***

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#### **Address**

c/o Mary Peterson  
Box 89  
Hill Spring, AB T0K 1E0  
Tel: (403) 626-3888  
Fax: (403) 653-3955

#### **Contact Person**

Mary Peterson

#### **Partnerships**

- Cardston School Division, Adult Literacy Council, Cardston Municipal Hospital
- Chinook Health Unit, Standoff Health Unit, Cardston Public Library, Town of Cardston

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote reading as a family activity;
- To involve education, health care professionals, and the community in a preventative literacy project;
- To respect cultural differences as aboriginal families participate;
- To build a foundation for successful school learning.

#### **Project Description**

Parent-child book bag kits are presented to parents of newborns by volunteers at the local hospital. Volunteers show parents the three books included and discuss the importance of reading to children from birth. Books have been chosen to be durable and appeal to the very young child. Because of the variety of cultural backgrounds, books feature different child nationalities. A simple Blackfoot language colouring book is included in all kits, as is a brochure, "Born to read - How to raise a reader."

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**Books for Babies**

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**Address**

Box 1090  
 Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
 Tel: (403) 627-4478  
 Fax: (403) 627-5065  
 Email: kmday@canuck.com

**Contact Person**

Anne Elle, Friends of the Literacy Society

**Partnerships**

- Family and Community Support Services, Public Library, Chinook Health Region Public Health Nurse

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage nurturing of the child through touch, hugs, voice, visual and emotive, all factors associated with sharing a book with baby.

**Project Description**

The purpose of Book for Babies is to encourage reading with and nurturing of babies right from birth. The project encourages parents to hold the baby, while talking and sharing a book that is age and culture appropriate. This project is staffed by a volunteer coordinator who organizes the book bags and delivers them to Public Health Nurses. The nurses then give the bags to new parents at the second home visit, when time may be available, in an effort to emphasize the importance of reading to the child. The bookbag, suitable for long term library use, contains two books and a membership card for the newborn (for one year) to the Pincher Creek and District Municipal Public Library.

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**Books for Babies**

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**Address**

Prospects Literacy Association  
 9913 - 108th Avenue  
 Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
 Tel: (403) 421-7323  
 Fax: (403) 421-7324  
 Email: readme@telusplanet.net

**Contact Person**

Maureen Sanders

**Partnership**

- Alberta Family and Social Services, Junior League of Edmonton

**Goals of the Project**

- To make books and reading an important part of children's lives from birth on;
- To assist parents in supporting children's early language and literacy development;
- To draw parents into our other literacy programs using the book bags as the first contact, thereby providing practical and social support for children's literacy development.

**Project Description**

This project began in June 1996 and will be implemented for three years. Book bags, containing four or five books, are distributed through health centres to low income parents of newborns. Follow-up is done by mentor volunteers who help parents gain access to other literacy programs.

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**Books for Babies, and Books for Babies (serving County of Lethbridge)**

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**Address**

County of Lethbridge Literacy Program  
 1920 - 17th Street

Coaldale, AB T1M 1M1  
 Tel: (403) 345-3160  
 Fax: (403) 345-1311

**Contact Person**

Sheelagh Matthews, Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Sponsored by the County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council
- Year One Funders - Lethbridge Community Foundation, B. Macabee's Booksellers
- Chinook Arch Regional Library System, Fanny's Fabrics
- Fineprints Screen Printing, Paramount Printers Ltd.
- Pioneer promotions Ltd., Save-on-Foods, Textile Outfitters (Calgary)
- Public Health Nurses of Chinook Health Region

**Goals of the Project**

- To recognize, celebrate and support parents as their children's first teachers;
- To increase parental awareness of their influences on their children's attitudes towards literacy and learning;
- To promote shared reading between parents and children;
- To improve shared reading between parents and children;
- To improve the literacy skills, attitudes, values and behaviours of both parents and their children.

**Project Description**

Research conducted by the Family Literacy Action Group found that the age group birth to five was omitted from any government funding in education. In other words, preschool children and their parents with literacy concerns are being neglected due to a lack of funding.

Books for Babies is a family literacy program based on the fact that

the early childhood years (birth to five) are the critical years in a child's development, and that parents and/or guardians need support in becoming more effective "first" teachers. Books for Babies support parents and/or guardians by providing them with the tools to start off in the rewarding activity of reading, a Books for Babies set.

Each Books for Babies set is comprised of a light canvas book bag suitable for the child's future use at the library or in play, an appropriate board book for the baby, a captivating picture book for the parents/guardians to read to the infant or to older siblings, a bookmark, material on ways to foster and support emerging literacy development, reading tips for the entire family, information on literacy programs available in the community (adult, family, and English as a Second Language), a list of agencies for high-risk families in need of assistance, and, of course, sponsor acknowledgments.

The Books for Babies sets are given out at the baby's four month visit to the Public Health Nurse. For those babies who do not receive inoculation shots, separate arrangements are made to receive a Books for Babies set.

Books for Babies sets are provided to all newborns residing in the City of Lethbridge and the County of Lethbridge. That means about 1450 babies per year are reached.

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***Books for Babies Program, and Partnership Approach to Literacy (P.A.L.) Project***

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**Address**

Kneehill Read Adult Literacy Project

Box 639  
 Three Hills, AB T0M 2A0  
 Tel: (403) 443-5556  
 Fax: (403) 443-5115

#### **Contact Person**

Tom Laubman, Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Kneehill Adult Learning Society, Gulf Oil Company Limited, Trochu Order of the Royal Purple

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote early literacy in children;
- To encourage reading at home;
- To help students find enjoyment in reading;
- To help students develop more positive attitudes toward reading in school;
- To help students improve their reading skills;
- To provide a trained "reading pal" for each student referred to the project.

#### **Project Description**

Books for Babies provides a book gift bag for each child born in the municipal district of Kneehill. The bag is given to new mothers by the public health nurses at their two-to three-month home visit. In addition to appropriate children's books for reading aloud to infants, the gift bag includes tips on sharing books with young children and information on the Books for Babies program. Parents have the option of identifying themselves so they can receive advice on selecting children's books, ideas for making reading times enjoyable, and access to resources that they can borrow, which encourage parents in developing a love of literature with their children. The program has been in operation since 1993. The annual budget allows for

one hundred gift bags to be made up and given out.

The Partnership Approach to Literacy (P.A.L.) Project is a tutoring project designed for school students from grade one through high school who have low reading or comprehension skills, and who experience little pleasure in reading. Students are referred to P.A.L. by their teachers or parents, or by their own request. They are matched with a volunteer tutor and work with that person up to 1 1/2 hours per week. Tutor and student may work together in the classroom, in the school library, or at home after school hours. Consideration is given to the student's reading style, strengths and preferences. The program works in partnership with parents to help children enjoy reading at home. It is modeled on the P.A.L. Project developed in Pincher Creek, Alberta.

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#### **Books for Kids**

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##### **Address**

Project Read  
 Box 26  
 Nanton, AB T0L 1R0  
 Tel: (403) 646-2845 or (403) 646-3030

##### **Contact Person**

Janice Johnson, Project Read  
 Louise Adie, Books for Kids

##### **Partnerships**

- Family and Community Social Services, Public Library
- Health Unit, Project Read, Elementary School Librarian

##### **Goals of the Project**

- To encourage families to read together;
- To encourage new parents to share books with their infants from birth;

- To create community awareness for Project Read.

### **Project Description**

This project serves families with new babies, and families new to the community with children under the age of seven. Families with new babies receive a book bag with books when they visit the local health unit, or when the Public Health Nurse visits them. Families new to the community receive a coupon for a book bag in their Welcome Wagon package, which is delivered by Family and Community Support Services. Coupons can be redeemed at the local public library.

Books are purchased by the local Elementary school librarian, who also collates the bags and supplies the Health Unit as required. By working through the elementary school, this project receives a discount on books.

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### ***B.O.O.K.S. (Books Offer Our Kids Success)***

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#### **Address**

c/o Prospects Literacy  
Association  
9913 108th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323  
Fax: (403) 421-7324  
Email: [readme@telusplanet.net](mailto:readme@telusplanet.net)

#### **Contact Person**

Maureen Sanders

#### **Partnerships**

- Alberta Family and Social Services
- This program is run in collaboration with a wide range of community partners, some of whom provide support such as meeting space, child care, meals or snacks.

### **Goals of the Project**

- To support parents as their children's first teachers of language and literacy;
- To increase the amount of books, reading and writing in the home;
- To provide effective reading/writing models for parents who will, in turn, provide effective models for their children.

### **Project Description**

B.O.O.K.S. is based on the Home-spun program, which in turn, is based on the Motherread program out of North Carolina. A qualified, paid facilitator models book sharing strategies in working with small groups of eight to ten parents, for eight to ten weeks.

Ideas and themes are discussed, with some books extended by craft and drama activities. Parents also engage in informal writing, often writing a story for their children during the program. Parents borrow books to share with their preschool children and they also receive gift books. Approximately 30 sessions have been run since 1995. The B.O.O.K.S. programs are run in collaboration with Headstart programs, community development projects, health centres, and daycares. This program has run successfully for four years, and is becoming well recognized among other community agencies.

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### ***Books to Share***

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#### **Address**

c/o Read-On Program  
Lethbridge Public Library  
810 - 5th Ave. S.  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C4  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel: (403) 380-7323  
Fax: (403) 329-1478

**Contact Person**

Margot Pollard, Adult Literacy  
Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Lethbridge Public Library

**Goals of the Project**

- To get children's books into the homes of parents who are students in the adult literacy program;
- To provide students in the adult literacy program with information on how to help children become better readers;
- To empower students who are parents to take a more active role in the literacy development of their children;
- To support opportunities for positive parent/child interactions.

**Project Description**

Books To Share is a family literacy outreach project of Read On, an adult literacy program at the Lethbridge Public Library. This program began in 1994 as an affordable and achievable Project. It is located in the Adult Learning Centre of the library where the student/tutor pairs meet for their weekly lessons. Books To Share is a small showcase of select books that have been withdrawn from the Children's Department at the local public library. Students in the Adult Literacy Program who are parents, are encouraged by their tutors to choose one or two books each week to take home to their children. If they wish, the students can practice the reading of their selected book(s) with their tutors as part of their lesson.

In general, the books that are chosen are ones that would appeal to the emerging child reader (birth to age eight). The criteria used for choosing the books for the project are: quality children's literature, eye appeal, tar-

get age group and ease of repair. The books are repaired and cleaned as much as possible by a program volunteer. Although these books have a limited life span, they can still enrich the life of a child.

In addition to the "give away" children books, an easy to read information pamphlet on children's literacy development is also available to parents. It is called "11 Ways To Help Your Children Become Better Readers - Family Literacy Interest Group."

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***Breaking the Cycle of Family Illiteracy***


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**Address**

3930 20th Street S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2T 4Z9  
Tel: (403) 686-9316  
Fax: (403) 686-0627

**Contact Person**

Karen L. Serrett, Ph.D.,  
Project Coordinator

***Other staff members include:***

Executive Director: Anne Price

Family Literacy Project  
Coordinator: Karen L. Serrett

Family Literacy Facilitator:  
Laurie Branner

Kindergarten Intervention  
Worker: Sherry Sherren

Preschool Intervention Worker:  
Nada Jerkovic

Home Readers: Vera Crabbe,  
Tina Parsons

**Partnerships**

- Office of the Commissioner of Services to Families and Children (Province of Alberta)
- Calgary Learning Centre (operated by the Calgary Society for Students with Learning Disabilities)

- Calgary Board of Education (Connaught Community School and Louise Dean Centre)
- Calgary Catholic Board of Education (Kara Program)

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase literacy activities in the home;
- To increase preschool children's readiness skills so that they come to school ready to engage in learning;
- To strengthen families through shared reading, talking, and playing with children;
- To increase parents' perceptions that they have the expertise to support their child's literacy development; To increase children's chances of school success;
- To increase parent participation in the school setting.

#### **Project Description**

The project contains three separate components which are either school-based or home-based. All programs are free of cost to participants. All project components target families in which children are at an increased risk for literacy difficulties, due to factors, such as: parents with literacy difficulties, impoverished background, limited exposure to English, single parents, and teen parents.

A. The Connaught component is housed in an inner-city school, Connaught Elementary School. Children who attend a morning kindergarten funded by the local school board, are also given the opportunity to attend an afternoon literacy program, which runs five days per week (Monday, Wednesday - Friday, 1:30 to 3:30 pm; on Tuesday the program runs from 1:30 to 2:30 pm). While the kindergarten children are participating in the afternoon component, their

parents and preschool siblings can engage in their own literacy development through participation in the parent or preschool program. Child participation allows numerous opportunities for exposure to quality children's literature, play, dramatics, songs, fingerplays, and crafts. Parents work on reading and writing skills, employment skills, strategy development for more effective parenting and supporting their young child's literacy development. This program runs during the course of the school year.

B. The Home Reader component works with families of young preschool children in their own homes. The program for each family is individualized according to family wants and needs. Sessions explore reading to young children, appropriate books for different ages, extending books through craft and dramatic play activities, and promoting literacy during daily activities. This program extends over a five-month period of time with weekly visits for two months, biweekly visits for two months, and then one visit in the fifth month.

C. The third component provides topical workshops to teen parents in the school setting. Teen parents attend presentations which discuss the importance of books for infant/toddler language and literacy development, as well as for promoting the bond between parent and child. Information and activities promoting healthy child development are also presented. The program consists of several workshops given at the school over the course of the school year.

This project began in September, 1996. Encouraging initial results indicate:

- changes in literacy levels of children and families; an increase in children's confidence in their own literacy skills;
- an increase in family cohesiveness; an increase in more positive and effective parenting skills
- an increased development of, and confidence in using, English skills in children from multi-cultural families;
- an increase in positive attitudes towards school and the learning environment (children and parents);
- an increase in parental empowerment and ability to advocate for their children.

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### *Community Action for Children, CANDORA*

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#### **Address**

500 Village on the Park  
Edmonton, AB T5W 4R7  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel: (403) 477-5655  
Fax: (403) 477-5659

#### **Contact Person**

Diane Sopher, Project  
Coordinator  
Tania Janke, Assistant  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Candora Society of Edmonton,  
Health Canada - funders

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide activities and snacks for three to six year olds;
- To provide a drop-in place for parents;
- To provide space and opportunities for people to get together;

- To build a healthier community
- To provide educational, recreational and culturally-appropriate activities for children and families.

#### **Project Description**

The CANDORA Society operates within the community of Abbotsfield/Rundle located in Northeast Edmonton. Abbotsfield is a low income, predominately tenant-oriented, and a demographically young community, with great ethnic diversity. Approximately 75-80% of the families live below the poverty line. The high rate of residential mobility in this neighbourhood hinders the formation of social and community stability. A high proportion of single parent families, unemployed persons and individuals on Supports for Independence (SFI) leads to a higher than average demand for programs and services.

This program runs three days a week at each site, and lunch time supervision is provided. Field trips are take children to a nearby farm, the Valley Zoo, local swimming pools, or the provincial museum. There is a weekly visit to the local library for "storytelling", where the children are read to and can actively participate in storytelling. The staff also includes music in their program for the children to learn basic music skills, rhythms, and popular children's songs.

Part of the program involves outreach to include family activities and community endeavors. This includes a broad spectrum, from home visits, community barbeques, and going for coffee with parents, to organizing cultural and holiday events. It also includes participation and input in community development, such as the new Children's Services objec-

tives of Child Welfare or Area Redevelopment Plans. As well, advocacy is promoted, as a cornerstone of CANDORA. Staff and families are educated in issues such as family violence. Whenever possible, experts on these topics are invited from within the community.

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### ***Community Action Program for Children***

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#### **Address**

Mosaic Centre  
#520, 910 - 7th Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 3N8  
Tel: (403) 265-1120  
Fax: (403) 266-2486

#### **Contact Person**

Carrie Bon Bernard, Mosaic  
Centre Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Calgary Birth Control Association, Calgary Counseling Centre
- Calgary Family Service Bureau, Calgary Health Services
- Calgary Immigrant Women's Association
- Mount Royal College, University of Calgary
- YMCA of Calgary

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To foster social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and language development of children from immigrant families;
- To provide education in the areas of health, parenting, employment, and community services;
- To provide support to children and families through informal counseling and home visits.

#### **Project Description**

The Community Action Program for Children has provided supportive and educational programs for immi-

grant and refugee families with children ages birth to six years since 1996. On-going programs are offered as part of a family resource centre. These include: children's enrichment programs (drop-in play, playroom activities, and early literacy), opportunities for parents (parenting information, family health issues, career planning and development, stress management, and other topics), and opportunities for families (toy lending library, cultural celebrations, and recreation). First language counselors representing eight languages are available to support South Asian, Spanish-speaking, and former Yugoslavian families. The program facilitates integration of immigrant and refugee families into mainstream society, and encourages independent access to community resources.

Written resources include: "Building a Better Future" (about the Mosaic Centre).

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### ***Community Literacy Intervention Program (C.L.I.P.)***

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#### **Address**

c/o Prospects Literacy  
Association  
9913 - 108th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323  
Fax: (403) 421-7324  
Email: readme@telusplanet.net

#### **Contact Person**

Maureen Sanders

#### **Partnerships**

- Alberta Family and Social Services
- University of Alberta
- Health Centres
- Social Services Offices

**Goals of the Project**

- To increase awareness among community agencies and schools of the role of family literacy in the development of healthy families;
- To increase awareness of the complex nature of literacy issues in families;
- To provide strategies for participants to help them recognize and support the development of early literacy behaviours in the clients they serve.

**Project Description**

The Community Literacy Intervention Program (C.L.I.P.) consists of workshops for non-literacy professionals, in an effort to sensitize them to the literacy issues of their clients. The workshops run for two half days or one whole day, and are done with a wide range of professionals, including health-care workers, social workers, and daycare staff. Workshops are given as requested, at the site of the agency which has made the request.

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**Family Treasures**

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**Address**

Box 1090  
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
Tel: (403) 627-5711  
Fax: (403) 627-5065

**Contact Person**

Kathy Day (at the above) *OR*  
Carole Goodreau (c/o Canyon  
School, Box 1120, Pincher Creek,  
AB T0K 1W0

**Partnerships**

- Local Schools and Literacy projects in the Pincher Creek, AB area

**Goals of the Project**

- To develop communication skills and literacy skills through a cele-

bration of discovery or sharing of a family treasure or story

**Project Description**

Family Treasures was initially designed by Jean Bruce of the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa, Ontario. As part of a literacy initiative of the Museum and the National Literacy Secretariat, a version for adult and student literacy projects was developed through the Read/Write Adult Literacy Project and the Partnership Approach to Literacy (P.A.L.) Project, both of Pincher Creek and District in Alberta, in 1994.

The project itself has been described by participants as the best project ever done in a classroom that involves parents and children. Over 100% involvement is reached by parents, children and classroom teacher, in terms of producing the family treasure or story, the annual wrap-up family dinner and the display of family treasures in the classroom, as grandparents and other family members also attend. Each year a class book is produced.

Resources include a package that consists of the project description, guidelines for literacy projects, and a sample album of family treasures, including postage for \$10.00. Cheques can be made payable to the above address. Workshops are also available for a fee.

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**Homespun Family Literacy**

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**Address**

Read/Write Adult Literacy  
Project  
Box 1206  
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
Tel: (403) 627-3311  
Fax: (403) 627-5065

Email: tsalonen@  
raptor.lethbridge.ab.ca

#### Contact Person

Toni Salonen

#### Partnerships

- Pincher Creek - Crowsnest Pass Brighter Futures Project
- Community service clubs, Rural initiatives

#### Goals of the Project

- To teach young parents and caregivers how to use quality children's literature as a means of developing thinking skills and imagination;
- To break the cycle of illiteracy present in generations of certain families.

#### Project Description

Homespun Family Literacy is a course for parents of preschool aged children. Courses are two hours per week for three weeks, and are facilitated by trained instructors. The course is based on the Homespun model developed at Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College. To date four classes have been held with a total enrollment of forty-three participants. Child care is offered and includes stories, songs, play, and a nutritious snack. The target group is low literacy families. When seeking funding, the program requests sufficient funds to cover the cost of child care, transportation, materials, and snacks. An average course costs approximately \$850.00. A one-time grant was received in 1996 to purchase sets of children's books for the class. Project evaluation, procedures and results are available.

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### *Homespun Family Literacy Program and Books for Babies*

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#### Address

Edson Literacy Program  
#201, 111 - 54th Street  
Edson, AB T7E 1T2  
Tel: (403) 723-3630  
Fax: (403) 723-4227  
Email: jankara@gyrd.ab.ca

#### Contact Person

Jan Karasek

#### Partnerships

- Edson Friendship Centre, Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium

#### Goals of the Project

- To encourage parents to read with their children.

#### Project Description

Homespun Family Literacy targets mainly single-parent families with fairly low incomes. Participants read and discuss a variety of children's books, and then take them home to read with their children. This program is generally offered in conjunction with the Basic Education class and with the Brighter Futures Program at the Friendship Centre.

The Books for Babies Program started in January of 1997 and ran for one year. The Local Health Unit distributed book bags to parents of infants. The local school division has since taken over this program.

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### *Homespun Family Literacy Project*

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#### Address

Box 847  
Coleman, AB T0K 0M0  
Tel: (403) 562-2580  
Fax: (403) 563-3771

**Contact Person**

Cheryl Cann

**Partnerships**

- Family and Community Support Services (Municipality of Crowsnest Pass)
- Blairmore Municipal Library

**Goals of the Project**

- To help parents understand the importance of family reading;
- To help combat the cyclical nature of low literacy in families.

**Project Description**

Homespun offers a series of eight workshops which are held one afternoon a week at the municipal library. Parents learn strategies for family reading and for enjoying literature through games and activities related to children's books. Discussions include using books to foster good communication within families and to create quality time for parents and children. While parents attend workshops, children listen to stories and make crafts. Participants are often referred by parents who have taken the workshops. Most families report increases in story reading at home after being involved in the program. Project evaluation procedures and results are available. The program is based on the Homespun model developed at Brooks Campus of Medicine Hat College.

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***Immigrant Intergenerational Skill Building and Support Program***

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**Address**

Mosaic Centre  
 #520, 910 - 7th Avenue S.W.  
 Calgary, AB T2P 3N8  
 Tel: (403) 265-1120  
 Fax: (403) 266-2486

**Contact Person**

Carrie Bon Bernard, Mosaic  
 Centre Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Calgary Birth Control Association, Calgary Board of Education
- Calgary Family Service Bureau, Calgary Language Bank
- Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association, Discovery House
- East Side Family Centre (Woods Homes), Immigrant Language and Vocational Assessment/Referral Centre
- Indian Ex-Servicemen Immigrant Association, Latin American Literacy Association
- Parent Support Association, The University of Calgary
- YMCA, YWCA - Sheriff King Home

**Goals of the Project**

- To assist in the prevention of domestic violence and in the reduction of youth delinquency;
- To encourage youth to stay in school.

**Project Description**

The Immigrant Intergenerational Skill Building and Support Program is an early intervention program aimed at assisting in the prevention of family violence. Immigrant parents and teens (12-18 years) are involved in communication skill building, support groups, E.S.L. for youth, recreation, and family networking opportunities. The support for youths includes literacy development and assistance with homework. The program provides first language facilitators and counselors to participants. The program began in 1996 and is ongoing. In the first year, over four hundred teens and parents took part in program activities. A manual

has been developed for both the program and its evaluation.

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### ***The Kara Family Support Centre***

#### **Address**

6717 - 132 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5C 2A4  
Tel: (403) 478-5396  
Fax: (403) 478-1979

#### **Contact Person**

Rose-Marie McCarthy, Executive Director

#### **Partnerships**

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote the healthy development of children by empowering families;
- To teach parenting skills, and positive communication in an experiential manner with qualified staff support;
- To provide a safe environment to enhance self esteem and independence by encouraging healthy behaviours through education, experiential opportunities, goal setting, feedback and role modeling.

#### **Project Description**

The Kara Program is offered four days a week, and is 18 weeks in length. Participants are parents and their pre-school children. Families are offered the opportunity to participate in the Kara Program, and other support programs offered, with Kara staff communicating one-on-one with parents and children, and providing referrals and access to community resources. Kara staff also work to advocate on behalf of program participants.

Families are provided with theoretical and experiential learning opportunities, through group learning opportunities, such as Nobody's Per-

fect, How to Talk So Kids Will Listen, and Life Skills Management.

A typical day in the Kara Program is structured as follows:

- a) 9:30 am to 11:30 am: Family Life Education - families interact with each other through structured and unstructured play, walks and activities. Issues such as discipline and age related behaviours are discussed and role modeled as they happen.
- b) 11:30 am to 12:15 pm: Lunch time behaviours are addressed (serving small portions, eating in a social setting and age appropriate behaviours).
- c) 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm: Children have naps and/or quiet structured activities under supervision of staff and volunteers. Parents attend the group sessions.

The Kara Family Support Centre offers programs at two other centres.

Kara Too is a drop in and support centre at:

#108, 5606 - 134A Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5C 2A4

Kara Too offers the following programs:

Collective Kitchens; SASHA - self help group for survivors of childhood sexual assault; Women's Peer Support Group; Northern Lights Native Crafts Group; Health for Two (with Capital Region Health); Information and Referrals; Spanish programs (Nobody's Perfect; Collective Kitchen); Parenting classes (How to Talk So Kids Will Listen; Siblings Without Rivalry).

Kara-Lot Second Hand Store  
12739 Fort Road  
Edmonton, AB

Store Hours are 10 am - 5 pm Monday to Saturday. The store depends on the community for donation of

clothing and household goods, purchase of clothing and household goods, and opportunities for volunteering.

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### ***Learning and Parenting Skills (LAPS)***

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#### **Address**

Alberta Vocational College -  
Calgary  
362 - Sixth Avenue S.E.  
Calgary, AB T2G 4S6  
Tel: (403) 297-3930  
Fax: (403) 297-4081

#### **Contact Person**

Elaine Cairns and Lauren  
Mackenzie

#### **Partnerships**

- Alberta Vocational College

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To develop cross-cultural, sensitive low literate materials focused on parenting issues;
- To increase the comfort level of ESL parents' willingness to address literacy issues.

#### **Project Description**

Two manuals have been developed, one for general workshops and one for ESL participants, on a variety of parenting topics. Materials include facilitator's guide, handouts, sample evaluation tools, easy reading materials and corresponding children's resources.

The manuals are based on workshops conducted in conjunction with agencies serving disadvantaged families throughout Calgary.

Resources available:

Literacy and Parenting Skills - ESL  
(\$15.00)

Literacy and Parenting Skills  
(\$21.75)

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### ***Parents in Partnership (PIP)***

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#### **Address**

Horace Allen School  
Box 400  
Coleman, AB T0K 0M0  
Tel: (403) 563-3998  
Fax: (403) 563-3011

#### **Contact Person**

Elaine Garner (Administrator),  
Cheryl Cann (Tutor Trainer),  
Karan Spoelder (Home  
Involvement Coordinator)

#### **Partnerships**

- Local Alberta Schools, Wild Rose Foundation
- Family and Community Support Services

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To offer reading and learning strategies to families;
- To promote an attitudinal change from non-learner to learner in all PIP family members;
- To deliver new clients to adult literacy programs and adult upgrading programs;
- To promote growth in students' reading for enjoyment;
- To introduce Carbo's Reading Style Inventory™ as a beneficial tool for identifying reading strengths and preferences in all children;
- To promote the inclusion of strategies based on learning styles into classroom activities.

#### **Project Description**

This program began in February 1995 as a pilot project funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, and was shared between Pincher Creek and the Crowsnest Pass, AB. Families with reading and/or numeracy difficulties were identified and referred to Parents in Partnership through school personnel. Through the use of a reading style inventory,

the PIP Coordinator determined learning strengths in family members. Once a learning preference was identified, related reading strategies were provided to be implemented in the home, making parents more comfortable with themselves, and their children as learners.

A Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) was employed by the Crowsnest Pass Literacy Foundation for the 1996-1997 school year. The PIC reported directly to the Crowsnest Pass Literacy Foundation and indirectly to the parent councils who provided initial funding. This position was a continuation of the work started when PIP was funded through the NLS.

Responsibilities of the Parent Involvement Coordinator include:

- Initially acting as liaison between home and school for hesitant (invisible) parents
- Encouraging and supporting parents' involvement in their children's education
- Conducting a variety of parent workshops at school and in the community
- Actively involving parents and community volunteers in "Family Fair"
- Sharing information on reading styles and learning preferences with teachers at participating schools
- Sharing information with parents during formal and informal meetings: parent/teacher interviews, school council meetings, family visits; and via newsletters, bulletin boards, and displays.
- Sharing information on reading styles and learning preferences and related strategies with families.

Parents In Partnership expanded in 1996 to include a variety of cross age tutoring and volunteer parent tutoring programs at three schools.

Community partnerships developed between Parents In Partnership and the Crowsnest Adult Literacy Program, in which PIP parents are referred for literacy help. In addition, Homespun, an eight-week family literacy program for parents and children (0-6 years of age) has been offered. The Crowsnest Municipal Library has co-sponsored "Celebrate Literacy," providing activities for parents and children after school and evenings for three schools, M.D. McEachern, Horace Allen and Isabelle Sellon.

Family Reading Nights are offered on a rotational basis once a month at the schools. These evenings are available to all families and provide an opportunity to visit school libraries, examine resources and learn new strategies for reading based on learning/ reading styles and strategies.

Please note that a final written report detailing this project is available through for the cost of mailing (approximately \$3.00 - \$4.00), from the following address:

Horace Allen School  
Box 400  
Coleman, AB  
T0K 0M0

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### *Partnership Approach to Literacy (P.A.L.)*

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#### **Address**

Box 1120  
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
Tel: (403) 627-5711  
Fax: (403) 627-5065

**Contact Person**

Kathy Day and Lynnette  
Ferguson, Literacy Coordinators

**Partnerships**

- The Five Schools of Pincher Creek area of Livingstone Range School Division #68
- The Friends of Literacy Society of Pincher Creek and District, which seeks corporate, foundation grants, local business, service clubs and individual support for the project.

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide reading enjoyment and modeling of learning skills to those students who struggle with daily reading tasks.

**Project Description**

The project provides trained volunteer tutors for students kindergarten through grade 12 who are identified as reading below grade level in the regular classroom. The family component of the program provides workshops for parents, such as "Help Your Child Be a Better Reader". As well, literacy coordinators meet with parents and children in the home and at parent/teacher interviews in order to discuss learning/reading strategies appropriate for the child.

Staff includes two half time literacy coordinators and a designated teacher in each school. Although the target group was initially identified as being kindergarten to grade seven, students in grades eight to twelve have also received tutors. The project takes place during school hours for young children and after school in a supervised locale for junior level and high school students.

Resources produced include a Partnership Approach to Learning (P.A.L.) video, an information packet

(cost=\$10.00), a computer disk (WordPerfect, cost=\$100.00) that contains generic forms, funding proposal and samples, and various workshops that are available for a nominal fee.

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***P.R.O.T.E.C.T.S. (Police Reading Out-loud To Educate Children Through Stories)***


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**Address**

Prospects Literacy Association  
9913 - 108th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323  
Fax: (403) 421-7324  
Email: readme@telusplanet.net

**Contact Person**

Maureen Sanders

**Partnership**

- Edmonton City Police; United Way

**Goals of the Project**

- To involve police officers in the community in a positive, non-threatening manner;
- To provide positive male role models in literacy;
- To provide a forum for discussion about any social problems children may be experiencing.

**Project Description**

Two officers from the Tactical Squad of the City Police visit a Kindergarten classroom in an inner-city school, and read one-on-one with those children chosen by the classroom teacher as needing both extra help and positive male role models. Visits are done on an irregular basis, due to officers' work schedule. The officers initiated this project, and named it themselves. Prospects Literacy Association provides support and encouragement.

**Rainbow Literacy Society:**

- a) *Reaching for Rainbows*
- b) *Building Blocks*
- c) *Books for Babies*
- d) *Time for Rhymes*

**Address**

Rainbow Literacy Society  
 Box 180  
 Vulcan, AB T0L 2B0  
 Tel: (403) 485-2241  
 Fax: (403) 485-2920  
 Email: book@telusplanet.net

**Contact Person**

Lorna Armstrong; Debbie  
 Webster; Louise Schmidt;  
 Bev Knutson-Show

**Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat,  
 Provincial Government of  
 Alberta
- Municipal and Community  
 Funding, Crestar Energy
- Local Health Unit, Local  
 Elementary Schools
- Local Family and Community  
 Social Services
- Mom and Tots, Rainbow Literacy  
 Society

**Goals of the Projects:**

- a) *Reaching for Rainbows:*  
 To provide information to parents  
 about reading to their children.
- b) *Building Blocks:*  
 To provide positive support to  
 parents who wish to help in their  
 child's literacy development.
- c) *Books for Babies and Time for  
 Rhymes:*  
 To encourage reading to children  
 from birth on.

**Project Description**

- a) *Reaching for Rainbows Family  
 Newsletter*  
 This newsletter is published by  
 four different schools, with each

one taking a turn at publishing. Each newsletter includes samples of student writing, as well as different tips for reading to children and other educational tips. This newsletter is sent to every family in the County, and has been well-received.

b) *Building Blocks*

This program operates in the County of Vulcan, High River, and the surrounding area. Trained workers, termed "Builders", provide in home support to families who are in need of literacy support. Builders go into the home daily, on average, for one month, for fifteen minutes each visit. Follow-up visits are performed weekly, and then monthly, as needed.

This program serves families of children ages 0-13. Referrals are taken from schools, health units, social service agencies, family liaison workers, physicians and self-referrals. Staff includes one part-time administrative coordinator and two part time coordinators who are responsible for initial family meetings, and for matching Builders to families. Coordinators also provide training and support to Builders. Each Builder has a resource kit, which includes books and writing materials, games and craft materials. All Builders receive a week of training initially, and then come in once a month for further training. Builders are paid hourly wages based on local teacher's aid wages.

c) *Books for Babies*

Bags with books and information are given to all newborns in the County. Public Health nurses deliver one bag to each new baby. Each bag contains three age-

appropriate books, as well as some tips on reading to children, and a coupon for a free library card.

d) Time for Rhymes

This program is based on the Toronto Mother Goose program. It takes place at Moms and Tots and teaches moms rhyming, songs and stories to share with their children (infants/toddlers).

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### ***Reading is Fun, and Literacy and Parenting Skills Program***

#### **Address**

Women in Need Society  
98 27E Horton Road S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2V 2X5  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel: (403) 255-7514  
Fax: (403) 255-0807

#### **Contact Person**

Carolle Anderson, Director

#### **Partnerships**

- United Way of Calgary, City of Calgary, Corporate Sponsors

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To encourage a love of reading in families;
- To help women with low literacy skills improve their literacy and parenting skills.

#### **Project Description**

The Reading is Fun program was designed for women and children leaving violence in their lives. Post-shelter women come to the Women in Need Society to obtain basic necessities, such as clothing, beds, and other household articles in order to begin new homes. It was noticed that the women never took books for their children. Since 1995, we have packaged the books according to age-appropriate groups. This gift of books includes the Alberta Literacy

Hot Line Number and a bookmark. The average number of books given away each year is approximately 10,000.

The Women in Need Society has also collaborated with the Literacy and Parenting Skills program in order to help women with low literacy skills. Facilitators come to the two Parent Child Resource Centres once per week. Women who have never had a chance to go to school have learned to read. As part of the program at the Resource Centres, the Family Life Educator and the Early Childhood Educator always share books with others in the evenings. The Family Life Educator assists immigrant women at one Centre and teenage mothers at the other Centre with resumes, applications and resources. Literacy has always been a part of the program at the Women in Need Society, and the Parent Child Resource Centres have been in operation since May of 1993.

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### ***Reading Partnership Approach to Literacy (PALS)***

#### **Address**

River Valley School  
Bag 6  
Sundre, AB T0M 1X0  
Tel: (403) 638-3939

#### **Contact Person**

Angela Schmiemann,  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Wildrose Foundation, Shell Canada, Sunpine

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To help students find enjoyment in reading;
- To help students improve their reading skills;

- To instill a love of reading that will grow with the student to effectively increase the quality of life within the community as a whole by eliminating preventable illiteracy.

### **Project Description**

Reading PALS (Partnership Approach to Literacy) is a tutoring project designed for grades one to eight students with low reading skills, who experience little pleasure in reading. Literacy skills and the attitude of the student toward their own abilities are key issues addressed in the program. Under the facilitation of the school principal and with the support of school staff, students receive one-on-one assistance from a trained volunteer tutor. A paid coordinator administrates the program by recruiting tutors, matching students, providing suitable resources and training, liaising with school staff, and raising community awareness. Parents and tutors are encouraged to use the Reading PALS resources to follow up at home or initiate their own program with their children who may or may not be in the PALS program. Almost 100% are from rural and remote communities and many lack resources at home. Reading PALS was originally funded in 1990 and has operated since that time.

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### ***Rhymes That Bind: A Mother Goose Program***

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#### **Address**

Prospects Literacy Association  
9913 - 108th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323  
Fax: (403) 421-7324  
Email: readme@telusplanet.net

#### **Contact Person**

Maureen Sanders

#### **Partnerships**

- Alberta Family and Social Services, Alberta Health

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote oral language development as a basis for literacy development;
- To promote positive family relationships through rhymes, songs and stories;
- To provide social and parenting support for parents of young children.

#### **Project Description**

Based on the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program in Toronto, Ontario, this program promotes oral language development in babies and toddlers. The focus of the program is on parents and their infants (up to 2 ½ years old). The program involves circle time with parents and infants, during which rhymes, songs and stories are shared. Two facilitators lead the program for 10 weekly sessions, for one hour per week. This program is run in collaboration with local health centres, which target high needs families. This program has been well accepted, and very well supported by staff at the centres. Written material and a video of the program is available through the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program in Toronto, Ontario.

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### ***Rhyme Time***

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#### **Address**

810 5th Ave. S.  
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4C4  
Tel: (403) 380-7325  
Fax: (403) 329-1478  
Email:  
rmcmahon@chinookaveh.ab.ca

**Contact Person**

Ruth McMahan

**Partnerships**

- Lethbridge Public Library, Parents as Teachers, School District 51

**Goals of the Project**

- To introduce parents to the importance of oral literacy;
- To encourage them to share in the delight of language with their preschoolers.

**Project Description**

This program is modeled on the Toronto "Parent-Child Mother Goose" Program. It is run in conjunction with "Parents as Teachers," which is a program designed to assist parents in the development of parenting skills. Rhyme Time is designed for children, from infancy through to 5 years of age. This hour long program consists of rhymes, tickles, knee bounces, songs, board books, playtime and storytime for the parents. The attendance at this program has tripled in its first year, with a larger population being reached and an increase in people's awareness of the library and its services.

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***Tiny Tot Tales***

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**Address**

Box 6321  
Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1R5  
Tel: (403) 621-1722  
Fax: (403) 542-4334

**Contact Person**

Carol Ulmer

**Partnerships**

- Crossroads Health Unit, Turner Foundation, Scholastic Canada
- Drayton Valley Association for Community Living

**Goals of the Project**

- To acquaint parents with the value of reading to infants and young children;
- To communicate to parents of young children that modeling reading within families encourages language development.

**Project Description**

The Tiny Tot Tales program distributes a complimentary book and information packet to all parents of newborns in the Drayton Valley area. Contents of the packet are supplied by the local literacy society, assembled by the Association for Community Living, and delivered to mothers and their babies at the four-month immunization clinic at the local health unit. At the six-month immunization clinic, parents are asked to complete an evaluation that is returned to the literacy program. Scholastic Canada provides the books for the packet as well as a cover letter promoting the value of families reading together. Evaluation results of the program are available.

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***We Can Co-Operative***

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**Address**

240 Abbotsfield Mall  
3210, 118 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5W 4W1  
Tel: (403) 496-5938  
Fax: (403) 474-1993

**Contact Person****Partnerships**

The We Can Co-op was created by the residents of Abbotsfield and Rundle communities.

**Goals of the Project**

- The We Can Co-op has a vision of the future that involves the community. In the true sense of co-operative, they focus on putting

ownership in the hands of the people. They achieve this by providing employment in the community, creating new initiatives based on their ideas and skills, learning and growing from their interaction with others, and actively participating in making their community a better place to live.

### **Project Description**

Located in the North-East region of Edmonton, We Can Food Co-op works exclusively with low-income families to help them obtain nutritious food at low cost. This food co-operative, which started in February 1995, is made up of members who are trying to save money on groceries. To participate, families pay a fee of \$5 a year. For \$15 each month, the members can receive two bags of high quality, nutritious groceries. By combining their money, Co-op members can afford to buy bulk, directly from wholesalers and local producers. The members help to sort and distribute the food by giving at least two hours of their time, therefore making it pos-

sible for the Co-op to sell food at a lower price. The Co-op also has a barter exchange table for items members don't want.

The We can Co-op is presently involved in three different areas:

- *The Employment Resource Centre* provides support, information and direction to community residents wanting to find employment, training or education.
- *E.R.C. for Youth* is a stay-in-school initiative for grade six and seven students in the community. The youth workers and the sports skills coach work directly in the schools with the children.
- *Community and economic development* is a number of different ongoing initiatives for co-op members; a storefront where they can sell their crafts to supplement their income; woolcrafter co-op producing Alberta made products; a community garden where members can grow their own produce to help supplement their food supply.



# Family Literacy Projects in British Columbia

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## *The Adult Learning Centre*

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### **Address**

917 Fitzgerald Ave.  
Courtenay, BC V9N 2R6  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel:(250) 338-9906  
Fax:(250) 338-9974  
Email: calls@island.net

### **Contact Person**

Judy Brooks

### **Partnerships**

- Human Resources and Development Canada

### **Goals of the Project**

- To persuade and motivate parents to upgrade their own literacy skills, as they model good literacy practices with their children.

### **Project Description**

The Adult Learning Centre targets parents and families with low literacy levels/skills. There are three aspects or mini-programs offered at the Centre. They are:

- **Early Intervention:** Consists of the local health unit and other community resources reaching out to high risk families to offer support;
- **Parents and Tots Drop-In:** Aims to identify parents with literacy difficulties, and provide literacy outreach to their children in the form of reading readiness and strategies for preschoolers;
- **Homework Assistance:** After school, tutors and parents support children's learning; parent literacy difficulties are identified.

The Centre has produced a written resource which outlines these mini-programs and is offered in the form of a brochure.

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## *Books for Babies*

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### **Address**

Squamish Public Library  
P. O. Box 1039  
Squamish, BC V0N 3G0  
Tel: (604) 892-3110  
Fax: (604) 892-9376

### **Contact Person**

Maureen Painter

### **Partnerships**

- Squamish Public Library, Squamish Primary Teachers' Association

### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase new mothers' awareness of the importance of reading to their children.

### **Project Description**

The Squamish Public Library presents every baby born at Squamish hospital with a new book. The books are purchased with money supplied by the library and the Squamish Primary Teachers' Association. Parents are given a brochure which outlines library hours, and provides details regarding the importance of reading aloud to children.

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## *Branching Out - Parent Drop In*

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### **Address**

50 East 30th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5W 2A1  
Tel: (604) 257-8545

Fax: (604) 257-8639

**Contact Person**

Coral Gallagher

**Partnerships**

- Ministry of Social Services, Riley Park Community Association

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide an informal resource centre/drop-in for people with children, with qualified child care available;
- To provide the opportunity to meet other parents and children;
- To provide information to parents and children on various topics, such as health, parenting, and education.

**Project Description**

This program offers parents and children the opportunity to relax, meet new people and gain new information. A lending library is available to parents and children. Various workshops, featuring guest speakers, are organized for parents while children attend the on-site child care facility. Topics for discussions are varied, and interesting, with staff being open to suggestions for new topics. Past workshops have focussed on:

- a) Information: crafts, legal information, community educational information (pre-school, French immersion, language development);
- b) Health: first visit to the dentist, physiotherapy, fitness training, sexual health, health related topics;
- c) Parenting: parenting issues, birth order;
- d) Social Development: cooking demonstrations and tastings, clothing exchange, pot-luck lunches, community issues. Please note that children, from newborn

to age seven, are welcome. Fees are charged. The cost is \$3.00/child or \$4.50/family for each session. Strips of ten tickets are available for \$30.00/child or \$45.00/family. A limited child care subsidy is available for parents while attending the Branching Out program.

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**Bridge to Learning**

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**Address**

Mission Street Literacy Association  
8136 Cannon Street  
Mission, B.C. V2V 6L7  
Tel/Fax: (604) 820-3369  
Email:  
hstewart@hubcap.minet.com

**Contact Person**

Heather Stewart,  
Darlene Kelly, Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- University College of the Fraser Valley, Mission Literacy Association
- First Nations Tribal Justice Institute, Mission Native Housing Society
- National Literacy Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide a family approach to education;
- To provide educational and career assessments;
- To provide educational and career counseling;
- To provide academic tutoring;
- To provide tutor training;
- To promote an increase in self-confidence and self-esteem;
- To promote cultural awareness.

**Project Description**

This program offers parents an opportunity to work and learn with educational professionals, other parents, and their children in a comfortable environment. Parents participate in activities designed to help them to recognize their child's individual learning abilities, increase self-esteem, cultural awareness and motivation, and help them to recognize their own educational and career potential. A focus on raising the academic level of participants is implemented through individual and small group tutoring. Participants' self esteem, confidence and educational motivation is also enhanced. Participants' on-going involvement in their families' life-long learning is encouraged. Project evaluation is planned, using the Structure of Intellect (SOI) method.

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**Community Planning for Intergenerational Literacy**


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**Address**

Box 960  
 College of the Rockies  
 Invermere, B.C. V0A 1K0  
 Tel: (250) 342-3210  
 Fax: (250) 342-9221  
 Email: lgadsby@rockies.net

**Contact Person**

Leona Gadsby, Regional Contact

**Partnerships**

- The Family Resource Centre of Invermere, Invermere Public Library
- Edgewater Elementary School, Golden Family Resource Centre
- Golden Community Resources Society, Golden Infant Development Program
- Golden Public Health Unit, Golden Public Library, Golden Women's Centre
- Kimberley Skills Centre, Continuing Education, Kimberley School District
- First Steps Infant Toddler Daycare, Boys and Girls Club of Cranbrook
- Kootenay Haven Transition House, Kootenay Community Law Centre
- Creston Employment Centre, Creston and District Co-op Nursery School

**Goals of the Project**

- To develop a plan for the delivery of intergenerational literacy programs in a number of communities.

**Project Description**

The communities of Golden, Invermere, Kimberley, Cranbrook and Creston have developed advisory committees for the purpose of planning an Intergenerational Literacy project in each community. Members of the committees come from a variety of agencies and include literacy students, parents and other user groups. The committees have identified existing literacy-related services in each community, looked at intergenerational programming models and developed a plan for each community for the development of family literacy initiatives that would meet community needs. The planning project has been funded as a regional project and applications for actual programming in the next year have also been applied for as a region. This has decreased the competition for already limited funds and has allowed for valuable sharing of resources, information, and expertise. This planning phase has been

valuable in that it occurred over a ten-month period. This allowed for extensive research and discussion. It also encouraged the development of important partnerships that have served several purposes, including funding, education awareness and the breaking down of barriers. A greater understanding of services provided by the various agencies involved has also been developed.

Plans for a final written report are underway, and will be available to those interested upon its completion.

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### ***Cooperative Family Reading Program***

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#### **Address**

Community Resources Society  
 #325 - 1301 Main Street  
 Penticton, B.C. V2A 8E1  
 Tel: (250) 492-4305  
 Fax: (250) 490-3950  
 Email: bfredrick@okanagan.bc.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Brenda Fredrick

#### **Partnerships**

- Okanagan University College, Penticton and District Resources Society
- Penticton Public Library, Penticton University Women's Club
- Soroptimist International of Penticton, Family Reading Advisory Committee
- National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada
- Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, Province of British Columbia

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide a more supportive alternative, and access to, literacy learning for adults who may not

have been able to participate in other programs for a variety of reasons, including fear of "traditional" educational programs and settings, childcare problems, and financial problems;

- To provide a safe, non-threatening environment for parents and children to learn together so that both can reach full learning potential;
- To provide a stepping stone for parents to begin a journey of life long learning, emotional well being and a sense of self esteem;
- To provide an opportunity for parents to explore the value of reading and in turn model and encourage reading for their children
- To foster a healthy attitude toward learning;
- To open the door and encourage interaction/communication within the family and in the community;
- To educate parents as to their vital role in preparing their children for school;
- To provide parents with activities that help to foster curiosity and the joy of learning for both themselves and their children.

#### **Project Description**

The Cooperative Family Reading Program is a free program that provides an opportunity for parents (caregivers) and their children to share activities that promote curiosity and the joy of reading, and helps them to improve reading and writing together. Three eight week sessions are held throughout the year, in the afternoons. Each two hour session includes three sections:

1. Parents and children working together on activities with the Children's Librarian, focusing on reading, storytelling, and the discussion of books;

2. Parents working with the Adult Education Instructor, focusing on reading, writing, creative problem solving, and motivational skills;
3. Children's program including crafts, games and reading activities.

An Advisory Committee was also implemented over the past year. The Committee has proven to be invaluable in assisting the Cooperative Family Literacy Program in reaching individuals most in need of family literacy. Members represent a broad section of the community, including representation from the following:

- School District, Indian Band, Women's Centre, Multi-Cultural Society
- Health Unit, Ministry for Children and Families, Social Worker (local Hospital)
- Public Library, Community Resources, Community Law Office
- a past program participant
- Funders - University Women's Club, Starbucks/Performers for Literacy

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### ***E.L.F. - Early Literacy Fun***

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#### **Address**

Terrace Public Library  
4610 Park Avenue  
Terrace, BC V8G 1V6  
Tel: (250) 638-8177  
Fax: (250) 635-6207  
Email: library@osg.net

#### **Contact Person**

Holly Nguyen,  
Children's Librarian

#### **Partnerships**

- Northwest Community College - Department for Early Childhood Education

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote early literacy in children;
- To generate both an awareness of books and a love of reading in children and their families.

#### **Project Description**

This is a one-on-one reading program for children between the ages of three and five. Students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education program at Northwest Community College are matched with children registered in the program.

Beginning in late September, students and children meet for one hour per week, until the end of April. Each weekly session consists of shared reading, game-playing and other related activities. An information session, related to children's literacy development, is held for parents once registration has taken place.

This project is in its third year, and has experienced increased success and popularity. Presently there is a waiting list for those children interested in attending the program for the following year. To date, parents have reported an increase in their children's interest in books and reading.

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### ***Families in Motion***

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#### **Address**

Skwah Band  
P. O. Box 178  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H7  
Tel: (604) 792-9204 (Skwah Band)  
Tel: (604) 792-4344  
Fax: (604) 702-0216

#### **Contact Person**

Barbara Bate

#### **Partnerships**

- Chilliwack Community Services, Chilliwack School District #33

- Fraser Valley East Literacy Association, Fraser Valley Regional Literacy
- Skwah Indian Band, University College of the Fraser Valley

#### Goals of the Project

- To bring families (adults and pre-schoolers) together to learn independently of each other, and to learn together as a family;
- To help parents recognize that they are their children's first and most important teachers.

#### Project Description

*Families in Motion* is a community-based, multi-cultural family literacy program for adults (parents, guardians, grandparents) and their three and four year old preschool children. The family learning program includes an adult component, a child component and a parent/child together time. Families (up to 20 adults and 20 children) meet twice a week for three hours per morning in multiple community facilities. The project began in September 1992 with the establishment of a community advisory committee now known as the Chilliwack Family Literacy Council. In April 1998, *Families in Motion* marked its fifth year of service delivery. Currently, the program has a staff of four. Available resources include: a written manual entitled: *Families in Motion: A Success Story*, and a video entitled *Families in Motion*.

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#### *Families Learning Together*

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##### Address

c/o Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre  
Box 609  
Fraser Lake, B.C. V0J 1S0  
Tel/Fax: (250) 699-6261

Email: rhenry@mail.sd56.bc.ca

##### Contact Person

Rhonda Henry

##### Partnerships

- College of New Caledonia, Nechako Literacy Society, School District #91

#### Goals of the Project

- To raise community awareness of literacy issues affecting families;
- To build on family strengths by recognizing parents' knowledge and skills as a foundation for literacy development;
- To assist families with developing their communication skills and interacting with the community.

#### Project Description

This project takes place at Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre, Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The evening is broken into five time slots: Reading Homework Time; Study or Organization Tip of the Week; Cooperative Activity; Storytime and Snack time; Motivational Activity (to encourage families to return the following week). Approximately 50-60 people attend each week, with a great deal of community support for the program.

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#### *The Family Focus Project*

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##### Address

c/o Capilano College  
2055 Purcell Way  
North Vancouver, BC V7J 3H5  
Tel: (604) 986-1911  
Fax: (604) 984-4985

##### Contact Person

Sue Wallster or Diana Twiss

##### Partnerships

#### Goals of the Project

- To integrate parents' academic programs into their family lives;

- To create opportunities for parents and children to interact together through use of pre-literacy activities.

### **Project Description**

This full time program is designed primarily for single parents on income assistance who were previously unable to return to school because of a lack of daycare. The program offers a class which allows parents and children to interact. It also creates opportunities for parents to access the college support systems. Using a cooperative child-minding system, parents attend the Family Focus program two days of the week. On the other two days, they are free to attend other classes and have study time.

During the Family Focus Program children are engaged in a variety of pre-literacy activities. Parents use this time to explore personal areas of concern, to discuss parenting strategies with the child care instructor, or to participate in the pre-literacy activities with their children. Overall, the parents receive support both as parents, and as students.

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### **Family Learning Centre**

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#### **Address**

c/o Fort St. John Literacy Society  
205 - 9711 100 Avenue  
Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 1Y2  
Tel: (250) 785-2110  
Fax: (250) 785-2127

#### **Contact Person**

Victoria Knox

#### **Partnerships**

- Northern Lights College, Fort St. John Literacy Society
- Fort St. John Public Library, Peace River North Teachers' Association

- Family Literacy Advisory Committee, School District #60 (student helpers)

### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise community awareness about literacy issues;
- To bring groups together to share resources and expertise;
- To act as a springboard to lobby government about local issues and needs;
- To encourage communication and sharing within the family;
- To help families make learning a family value;
- To provide children with early exposure to reading and language;
- To help parents help their children;
- To help parents access needed information or services;
- To help parents feel more confident and comfortable dealing with schools;
- To create a positive learning experience that encourages adults to change their attitudes about learning and the importance of education;
- To offer support and encouragement to participants as needed.

### **Project Description**

A variety of projects are being offered by the Family Learning Centre. The Peace River North Teachers' Association is currently operating a "Books for Babies" project, which supplies a book to each new baby born in the Fort St. John Hospital. In the fall, the Association will administer both the Books for Babies project and a "Choose Success" project, with assistance and direction from the Family Literacy Advisory Committee.

The Choose Success project will run for two eight week sessions operating two half days each week. The

children will be in a preschool program while the parents are working on up-grading and parenting skills. Also, children too young for the preschool program will be cared for on site. One Saturday morning during each eight-week session will be designated family day and so spouses, grandparents and older siblings will be encouraged to attend.

Books for Babies will be expanded to include a book bag embossed with the program name, information about the importance of reading to young children and infants, and information about the library. If funding can be found, then T-shirts saying "Born to Read" will also be included in the package.

In the spring, a phone-in storytime will be launched in the community. Children will be able to call and hear a story. This project will begin with just one phone line and will be evaluated at the end of three months. Stories will be changed weekly and volunteer readers will pre-record the stories. With cooperation from School District #60, drama students and English classes will be encouraged to read for these tapes and may even write some original material. This project will be housed at the Peace River North Teachers' Association office and they will maintain the recordings.

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### ***Family Literacy Development and Communication Service***

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#### **Address**

c/o University College of the Fraser Valley  
45635 Yale Road West  
Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6T4  
Tel: (604) 792-0025  
Fax: (604) 792-2388

Email: [bbate@ucfv.bc.ca](mailto:bbate@ucfv.bc.ca)

#### **Contact Person**

Special Projects Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- University College of the Fraser Valley, Literacy BC

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote strong, well planned provincial family literacy programs which are community-based and need to be built for self-survival;
- To maintain central leadership in family literacy until it is well established in British Columbia; To provide continued support for regional coordinators' professional growth in family literacy in order to build a decentralized network of provincial expertise;
- To teach the idea that long term growth and stability of family literacy programs is dependent upon "educators being just one part of the community equation."

#### **Project Description**

This project provides consultation, information and support, including community development work and fund-raising strategies, to both existing cost-shared family literacy projects and to new groups wanting to initiate family literacy projects.

In partnership with Literacy BC, the project also maintains a family literacy electronic conference on the B.C. literacy electronic network.

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### ***Family Literacy Kit***

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#### **Address**

c/o Literacy BC  
622-510 West Hastings St.  
Vancouver, B. C. V6B 1L8  
Tel: (800) 663-1283  
Fax: (604) 684-8520

**Contact Person**

Sandy Middleton

**Partnerships**

- University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV), Literacy BC
- National Literacy Secretariat, British Columbia Ministry of Education, Skills and Training

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide one resource featuring a collection of information on family literacy.

**Project Description**

The Family Literacy Kit was first assembled in November 1997 by Barbara Bate (UCFV) to provide background material for people new to family literacy. The Kit has seven colour-coded sections on family literacy: Background Information; Framework, Types, Models; Program Development; Program Evaluation; Funding Opportunities; Support Services in/for BC; Network Information; Newspaper Clippings/Announcements; Your Information: Your Notes. It is expected that family literacy workers will add to the Kit in a way that enables future owners to benefit. One way to keep the Kit in circulation is to make it current, useful, and reflective of ongoing family literacy development.

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**Family Literacy Project**

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**Address**

c/o Central Okanagan Child and Family Resources Society  
#380 - 1855 Kirschner Road  
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 4N7  
Tel: (250) 868-9622  
Fax: (250) 763-4910  
Email: rfrost@silk.net

**Contact Person**

Lynn Malinsky

**Partnerships**

- Okanagan University College, Okanagan Regional Library
- Central Okanagan Child and Family Resources Society

**Goals of the Project**

- To increase literacy interaction between parents and children;
- To increase parents' skills associated with reading to their children;
- To encourage families to recognize the value of reading for information, knowledge, and enjoyment.

**Project Description**

This program will begin in October 1998 and will run through to June 1999. Six family literacy groups will operate in ten week sessions consisting of one two-hour meeting per week. During each group session, parents and their 3- and 4-year old children will meet in separate groups and then will also come together for stories and activities. The topics for the parents' sessions will be determined through discussion with parents, and would include issues such as reading with children, life skills and parenting skills. The children's sessions will focus on age-appropriate activities. Staff consists of two facilitators, as well as site agency staff members. The facilitators (and the community-based steering committee) will also focus on raising awareness of family literacy within the wider community.

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**Learning: A New Beginning**

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**Address**

c/o Northern Lights College  
11401 - 8th Street  
Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 4G2  
Tel: (250) 843-7035

Fax: (250) 782-6069  
 Email: thomis@nlc.bc.ca

### Contact Person

Trish Homish

### Partnerships

- Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek Literacy Society  
 The steering committee consisted of representatives from the following groups:
- School District #59 (Peace River South), Catholic Social Services
- Obair Economic Society, Senior Citizen's Association of Dawson Creek
- Dawson Creek Aboriginal Family Resources Society
- Farmington Farmerettes, Rolla Women's Institute
- Pouce Coupe Healthy Communities, Dawson Creek Literacy Society
- South Peace Community Resources Society, Nawican Friendship Society
- Kiwanis Performing Arts Society, Dawson Creek Chamber of Commerce

### Goals of the Project

- To establish a representative committee that would determine the type of family literacy program that would be suit this community's needs;
- To submit a project proposal developed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the committee.

### Project Description

This project entailed the establishment of a broad-based community advisory committee that identified sources of support, including facilities, instructors, family support and financial assistance. The committee assessed the needs of the community as a whole, and then proposed a fam-

ily literacy project that would incorporate issues such as: early intervention, shared reading time for parents and children, support for existing school programs, easy access by all, having a welcoming and safe environment, and encouraging feedback from the participants. The committee is awaiting acceptance of and funding for their project proposal.

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### *The Prince George Project*

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#### Address

c/o College Foundations  
 Division  
 CNC - 3330 - 22nd Avenue  
 Prince George, BC V2N 1P8  
 Tel: (250) 561-5826 or (250) 562-2131  
 Fax: (250) 561-5866

#### Contact Person

Marcia Timbres

#### Partnerships

- School District #57, Prince George Public Library

#### Goals of the Project

- To raise awareness of family literacy;
- To create a network between programs;
- To increase family literacy activities;
- To develop family literacy resource materials.

#### Project Description

The Prince George project, currently in progress, was developed to identify and describe programs in the city that have a family literacy component. With the help of these programs, plans will be further formulated to develop family literacy components, where a natural opportunity exists but where no literacy programs currently operate. Resources to be compiled include

five "Ready, Set, Read" activity packages, and an annotated list of programs (in Prince George) with family literacy components, to be distributed within the community.

Community partnerships will be investigated and developed, with an eye to future financial support.

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### ***Raise a Reader Program and Read to Me Program***

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#### **Address**

Fraser Valley Regional Library,  
Chilliwack Branch  
45860 - 1st Avenue  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 7K1  
Tel: (604) 792-1944  
Fax: (604) 792-7483  
Email: kathy.brown@fvrl.bc.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Kathy Brown

#### **Partnerships**

- Soroptomists International of Chilliwack
- Fraser Valley Regional Library - Chilliwack Branch
- Chilliwack School District, Kiwanis Club of Chilliwack

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To give parents of newborns a kit promoting the value of reading to children early in life;
- To promote the growth of literacy skills within the family.

#### **Project Description**

Raise a Reader targets every family with a new baby born at the Chilliwack Hospital, up to 1,000 per year, and provides them with a kit promoting the value of reading to children early in life. The library coordinator and Soroptomists carry out and manage the project. This includes pricing, ordering, and assembling the components of the kit, delivery to the hospital, and promo-

tional releases. Each kit includes a quality picture book, a "Read to Me" infant t-shirt, a book for parents on reading aloud, library information, and a reading list for babies and toddlers. All of this is packaged in a cotton drawstring bag with the Soroptomist and library logos. The cost of the kits is approximately ten dollars, including printing, staff costs, and taxes, and is completely donated by the Soroptomists and the library system. The project is entering its fourth consecutive year in 1998. Raise a Reader is linked to another family literacy project, Families in Motion, to provide a continuum for some community families.

The Chilliwack branch of the Fraser Valley Regional Library, in conjunction with the local school district and the Kiwanis Club, also offers the Read to Me program in seven elementary schools and one preschool in the area. In Read to Me, a trained volunteer spends an hour a week reading to and sharing books with a young child. This project will be entering its eighth year in 1998.

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### ***Reading and Parenting Program (R.A.P.P.)***

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#### **Address**

c/o Project Literacy Victoria  
930 Yates Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 4Z3  
Tel: (250) 381-3755  
Fax: (250) 381-4911  
Email: dkirby@cln.etc.bc.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Diane Kirby

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Burnside Gorge Community School

- Blanchard Community Centre, Peninsula Community Society
- Esquimalt Neighbourhood House

### Goals of the Project

- To give parents the opportunity to gain parenting and literacy skills to use with their children;
- To provide a base of trained facilitators and host sites to make RAPP an on-going program in Greater Victoria's toolbox for parents.

### Project Description

The Reading and Parenting Project is designed to help parents gain parenting skills, at the same time as helping their preschool children with pre-literacy skills through a series of home activities, including reading to them. RAPP is an eight-session program usually delivered in two to three hour-long sessions over eight weeks starting in March and finishing by the end of April. Parents work with facilitators in one area on-site while their children are being attended to and participating in related activities in another area at the same site.

The current project will recruit and train 12 or so facilitators to deliver the Reading and Parenting Project in four selected sites in the Greater Victoria Area. The project will run from November 1997 to June of 1998.

This project has produced a manual entitled, "The Reading and Parenting Project: Strengthening Literacy Skills Through Parent Involvement."

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### *Reading Rascals*

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#### Address

c/o Clearbrook Library  
3232 Dahlstrom Avenue  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6N4

Tel: (604) 859-7814  
Fax: (604) 859-7329  
Email: caro.okennedy@fvrl.bc.ca

### Contact Person

Caro O'Kennedy

### Partnerships

- Fraser Valley Regional Library, Abbotsford Literacy Association
- University College of the Fraser Valley, School District #34

### Goals of the Project

- To enhance pre-literacy skills for preschool children;
- To develop the adult family member's literacy level to support and sustain the family unit;
- To introduce participants to a broad range of children's literature;
- To encourage children to listen attentively to stories for the purpose of developing listening skills, critical thinking skills, oral discussion, and socially appropriate behaviour;
- To have participants interact in a group setting, where appropriate;
- To teach the parents/caregivers to interact with their children through literature;
- To encourage emotionally undernourished children to develop family bonding through parent/child participation in reading activities.

### Project Description

Reading Rascals was initiated in 1995. It is a program that supports family literacy by reinforcing a community culture of reading and conversation. The program is offered at the kindergarten level in local elementary schools during school hours. Each program runs for six weeks, one session per week with 12 families participating. Reading Rascals provides opportunities for par-

ents to improve their personal literacy skills by modeling action rhymes, read-alouds, and interactive stories. As well, six engaging picture books become the property of the child for use by the whole family. Staffing is voluntary by project partners, as well as by previous adult participants in the Reading Rascals program. Reading Rascals has received a cost-shared grant to develop a Reading Rascals Project kit, which should be available in late 1999.

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### *Up to Speed: Computers for Family Literacy*

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#### **Address**

c/o University College of the  
Fraser Valley  
45635 Yale Road  
Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 6T4  
Tel: (604) 792-0025  
Fax: (604) 792-2388  
Email: bbate@ucfv.bc.ca, or  
vgrieve@ucfv.bc.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Vicki Grieve

#### **Partnerships**

- University College of the Fraser Valley (UCFV)

- Chilliwack Fraser Rotary Club,  
Chilliwack School District #33

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide the opportunity for family learning in computer literacy;
- To promote the development of computer competency, as well as basic reading, writing, and communication skills in families;
- To provide Central Elementary school families with home computers and centralized computer literacy instruction;

#### **Project Description**

This project involves developing and piloting a six week learning program to address the importance of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills with ten families (parent & youth) selected from an inner city elementary school. Several used 386 computers are collected, are made usable and are provided to the families with accompanying lab instruction. A coordinator and a computer literacy instructor are assisted by rotary club members, high school computer students and literacy tutors.





## Family Literacy Projects in Manitoba

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### *Bookmates and Book Bridges Programs*

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#### **Address**

University of Manitoba  
Faculty of Education  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2  
Tel: (204) 474-9092  
Fax: (204) 474-7550

#### **Contact Person**

Dr. Bev Zakuluk

#### **Partnerships**

- Junior League of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg Public Library, Royal Bank,
- Metis Friendship Centre, Immigrant Women's Employment Counseling Services.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise the level of parental awareness about the importance of reading with children;
- To increase parental understanding and appreciation for children's writing;
- To train workshop leaders from the community to conduct Bookmates sessions.

#### **Project Description**

Bookmates is a series of three workshops for parents which focus on the how and why of storybooks for children and on using environmental print to foster functional reading and writing. There are "train the trainer" workshops to enable parents who have participated in Bookmates and others to become facilitators for fu-

ture workshops in their communities.

Book Bridges is a more extensive series of ten workshops based on children's literature. Volunteers facilitate weekly evening sessions, based on a six-hour training program. Participants join in small group "literature circles" and later join writers' workshop. Participants create "family stories" and discuss ideas about their writing.

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### *Changes: Samaritan House Family Literacy Program*

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#### **Address**

Samaritan House Literacy  
110-6th Street  
Brandon, MB R7A 3N2  
Tel: (204) 726-0758  
Fax: (204) 728-5679

#### **Email:**

samaritan@mb.sympatico.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Julie Tegg

#### **Partnerships**

- Samaritan House, National Literacy Secretariat

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide a protective environment designed to address the needs of women and children who have left abusive relationships.

#### **Project Description**

This program is a three-month program that will bring women and children together in a co-operative and caring, non-violent and supportive environment in to address the de-

mands and changes in lifestyles that are associated with leaving an abusive environment. The program offers courses dealing with development of education and family literacy skills, parent-child communication skills, support services addressing educational needs of children, play therapy/child counseling, life skills development and group and individual counseling related to family violence issues.

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### *Creating a Learning Culture in the Home*

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#### **Address**

Thompson Reading Aides Corporation  
Box 351  
Thompson, MB R8N 1N1  
Tel: (204) 778-7988  
Fax: (204) 677-4110

#### **Contact Person**

Lynda Paziuk

#### **Partnerships**

- Laubach Literacy of Canada, Knights of Columbus

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote reading in the home;
- To provide information to anyone interested in family literacy.

#### **Project Description**

This project offers a twelve hour workshop series for parents with a focus on helping children develop literacy skills and self-esteem, while at the same time, providing parents/caregivers with an understanding of how children learn to read, how they learn to write and how they develop self-esteem. The workshops give parents practical suggestions and tips for fitting reading and writing naturally into the everyday family routines. For example, parents

make books, explore nursery rhymes, learn fingerplays, write a family story and discover reading/writing games, while instructors model ways to read to children.

Thompson Reading Aides also provides outreach to other organizations in Thompson Manitoba. Members of Thompson Reading Aides have received a positive response from participants, in terms of an increased awareness of the importance of reading in the home.

A written resource in the form of a Family Literacy Calendar has been produced, at a cost to be announced.

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### *Early Childhood Centre and Parent Computer Program*

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#### **Address**

Victor Mager School  
81 Beliveau Rd.  
Winnipeg, MB R2M 1S6  
Tel: (204) 253-9873

#### **Contact Person**

Community Liaison Worker

#### **Partnerships**

- Provincial Department of Culture and Citizenship, St. Vital School Division,
- Victor Mager Parents Association, Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club, United Way,
- Winnipeg Foundation, National Literacy Secretariat.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide families with early educational experiences and promote positive involvement with school.

#### **Project Description**

The Early Childhood Centre was begun in 1988 and open for parents and preschoolers daily for a full day. Staff include a teacher and assistant who provide a program in which parents

are expected to participate with children in reading, songs, storytelling and craft activities. In 1998 the Centre will become one of two sites in Manitoba funded as an "Early Start" project which will include a home visitor.

A parent computer program offers basic computer workshops in evenings with the goal that parents will be able to help their own children or become classroom computer helpers.

Victor Mager also offers a variety of adult education, job re-entry and ESL programs for families in the community.

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### ***Families and Schools Together (FAST)***

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#### **Address**

The Family Centre of Winnipeg  
401-393 Portage Ave.  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6  
Tel: (204) 947-1401

#### **Contact Person**

Holly Puckall

#### **Partnerships**

- The Family Centre of Winnipeg, The Child Guidance Clinic, The United Way
- The Addiction Foundation of Manitoba, The Winnipeg Foundation
- The Thomas Sill Foundation, Winnipeg Child and Family Services
- Government of Manitoba - Youth Secretariat

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide early intervention to at risk children who have been identified as such by teachers;
- To empower parents to become full partners with the school and to become the primary prevention agent for their own child.

#### **Project Description**

The FAST program runs for eight-week sessions, once in the fall and once in the spring in four schools in the Winnipeg area. Teachers try to identify children from four to nine years of age, who are exhibiting behavioural traits such as short attention span, apathy, depression or aggression. Their families are then invited to participate in eight weekly multi-family meetings held at the school. During these sessions, positive experiences are structured and facilitated by a collaborative leadership team. Once a week, the entire group meets for supper and activities that build circles of support for the families.

Each activity is based on research about families. For example, the supper is just one of several activities designed to strengthen the family. The evening begins with families singing together to build group cohesion. After supper, each family spends ten minutes playing games that strengthen communication. They draw pictures together. They act out cards with a smiling face, or a sad face or an angry face. Then, while others do different activities, one child gets 15 minutes of undivided attention from one of the parents in "special play." Special Play is a carefully planned activity that allows the child to run the session, with the parent following the child's lead. The evening ends with all children playing together, while parents spend 15 minutes of "buddy time" with a special friend, and a 45 minute circle with all the parents sharing.

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### ***Family Book Partners - A Family Literacy Model***

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**Address**

Pembina Valley Language  
Education for Adults  
#2 - 571 Main Street  
Winkler, MB R6W 1G3  
Tel: (204) 325-4997  
Fax: (204) 325-5945  
Email: pemvalla@mts.net

**Contact Person**

Junita Kirby

**Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat,  
South Central Regional Library
- LaVerendrye Reading Council

**Goals of the Project**

- To focus on the entire family and develop an enthusiasm for reading in all family members;
- To promote academic gains in children;
- To promote confidence and growth in self-esteem in all involved;
- To strengthen family relationships by increasing positive interactions between family members.

**Project Description**

This is a pilot program running from September 1997 to September 1998. The focus is on ten families with primary and pre-school children who have been identified as families who would benefit from exposure to literacy ideas and activities. They are visited in their homes five to six times throughout the fall and winter.

During further visits staff deliver book blocks from the local library and do many literacy activities with the entire family. Distribution of donated used books enable families to start their own personal libraries. Families will be encouraged to take out memberships to the local library.

A year-end "book party" for all of the families will be held at the conclusion of the visits.

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### ***Family Literacy Project***

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**Address**

Journeys Adult Education Centre  
315 McGee Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0L8  
Tel: (204) 987-2640

**Contact Person**

Barb Schmidt, Family Literacy  
Coordinator

**Partnerships****Goals of the Project**

- To integrate a family literacy model within ongoing literacy work.

**Project Description**

This is a 40 week program that contains five components: adult literacy; life management skills; parent education and support groups; early childhood education and care for preschoolers; and scheduled parent/child interaction times.

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### ***Parents are Teachers: Focus on Preschool Children and Parents***

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**Address**

Betty Gibson Parent Advisory  
Council  
701-11th Street  
Brandon, MB R7A 6H7  
Tel: (204) 729-3965  
Fax: (204) 729-3969

**Contact Person**

Nancy DeRoo,  
Coordinator/Instructor

**Partnerships**

- Child and Family Services, City and Provincial Social Services

- Family Resource Centre, Local Soup Kitchen, and other family related resources

### Goals of the Project

- To enhance child's school-readiness;
- To improve adults' literacy skills;
- To explore community partnerships in order to sustain the program.

### Project Description

This project is located in a school, and targets families of children at risk for reading difficulties. Participants are identified through a referral/needs assessment. Parents and children participate in reading and craft activities followed by a parents' session separate from the children. Parents explore topics of interest such as how to read to children, and the importance of reading. As well, parents are provided with ideas to extend family reading at home. Handouts are distributed and discussed in terms of kindergarten readiness and developmental stages from infancy to age five. Suggestions are made as to the types of activities parents could use at home in order to help their children meet kindergarten expectations.

Many children's books written by a wide variety of authors are examined. Writing skills of preschool children are also explored, again with discussion on activities that families could use at home to encourage literacy, such as providing time, space, and materials for children to create their own stories. Parents are also involved in some writing of their own, namely birth stories. The sessions close with the families together in circle time. Stories and rhymes are shared and reading to children is

modeled. Families then take home books and keep a log of books read.

The first eight-week session ended March, 1998. Six families (with seven children altogether) completed the session. Although some of the families were not necessarily from the target group, it was felt that it was important to go ahead with those who had expressed definite interest and work from there. Feedback received was extremely positive. One of the best ways to spread the word is by word of mouth, and those who participated will be positive advocates for the program.

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### Read to Me

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#### Address

35 Main St., Room 208  
 Flin Flon, MB R8A 1J7  
 Tel/Fax: (204) 687-7797  
 Email: warkentins@  
 mb.sympatico.ca

#### Contact Person

Marge Warkentin, Coordinator

#### Partnerships

- Community Adult Learning Centre, Joe Brain Foundation
- National Literacy Secretariat

#### Goals of the Project

- To assist families in establishing reading as a valued activity within the home;
- To develop a love of books by presenting reading as a fun experience in a comfortable setting;
- To expose participants to "learning in play" activities;
- To encourage home literacy activities;
- To provide a bridge between home and school environments: structured learning, peer relationships, leaving home;

- To encourage interaction between children and parents/caregivers;
- To support and encourage adults in their caregiving roles.

### **Project Description**

The Read to Me program is held in the Early Years' Enrichment Room at McIsaac School in Flin Flon, Manitoba. The program consists of two, eight-week programs per school year. Each eight-week program consists of two half day sessions per week.

Each session is organized around a daily theme, such as dinosaurs, the alphabet, nutrition, and folk tales. Activities during sessions include circle time, with songs, fingerplays, stories and games, snacks, crafts, book reading and an adult group session, featuring parenting videos, guest speakers and discussion.

To encourage non-discriminatory access to the program, Read to Me is made available at no cost to participants.

This project has produced a handbook entitled "Handbook for Family Literacy-Read to Me," at a cost of \$5.00 plus shipping.

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### ***Reading Partners/Bookmates: Facilitator Training and Outreach***

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#### **Address**

St. John's Library  
500 Salter Street  
Winnipeg, MB R2W 4M5  
Tel: (204) 582-1804

#### **Contact Person**

Barb Schmidt, Family Literacy  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- The Junior League of Winnipeg,  
Winnipeg Public Library

### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise the level of parental awareness about the importance of early literacy activities with children;
- To assist families to develop home reading activities with children.

### **Project Description**

Bookmates originally matched adult volunteers with preschool children for regular library visits. It expanded to a series of Family Literacy Workshops. In 1997, the focus shifted to a "Train the Trainer" model. Bookmates now offers an established profile of workshops that are available upon request: Parent and Child Workshop Series; Training Workshops on Emergent Literacy; Rock and Ready; and Issues in Emergent Literacy.

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### ***Rotary, Y and School/Youth Literacy Program***

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#### **Address**

Brandon Family YMCA  
231 8th Street  
Brandon, MB R7A 3X2  
Tel: (204) 727-5456  
Fax: (204) 726-0095  
Email: snelling@dockery.com

#### **Contact Person**

Marty Snelling, CEO

#### **Partnerships**

- Brandon School Division,  
Brandon YMCA

### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide students with educational and personal support both inside and outside the school setting;
- To build self-confidence and self-esteem in children and youth;
- To improve students' reading and writing skills and develop cooperative learning skills;

- To provide students with alternative ways of dealing with situations;
- To encourage parental involvement both in and out of the program.

### Project Description

The Rotary, “Y and School,” and Youth Literacy program has assisted over 600 youth/children in the past six years.

The program provides assistance to many children and youth. Such youth benefit from the leadership and direction provided by the staff working in partnership with school teachers, counselors, home liaison workers and Y youth workers. There are many contributing factors which relate to poor school performance. The YMCA and the Brandon School Division have designed this program to address these “Risk Factors” with challenge, adventure, education and fun.

Parent workshops are offered and parent involvement is encouraged throughout.

The Rotary, Y and School/Youth Literacy program provides the following:

- homework and classroom assistance to children struggling with reading, writing, math, class assignments and educational concepts;
- builds confidence, personal ability, develops positive attitude and self esteem in children. A report card is completed on this area for each student; and
- recreation, lifeskills, social interaction and development.

### *Ste. Anne Elementary Family Literacy Resource Centre*

#### Address

c/o Ste. Anne Elementary School  
177 St. Alphonse Avenue  
Ste. Anne, MB R5H 1G3  
Tel: (204) 422-8776  
Fax: (204) 422-8262  
Email: sae.mb@sympatico.ca

#### Contact Person

Phyllis Hildebrandt, Principal at Ste. Anne Elementary School

#### Partnerships

#### Goals of the Project

- To set up a literacy resource centre;
- To provide parents with information on the importance of language development and the connection between strong language skills and reading success;
- To teach parents techniques to aid in the development of literacy skills, which will foster growth and development, and help prepare children in readiness for learning and for school;
- To give parents strategies to help foster language development;
- To break the cycle of school referrals by enabling and empowering parents to work with their children.

#### Project Description

This project was designed in three phases:

- 1) Setting up the Resource Centre and hiring a Coordinator;
- 2) Training parents to work with students who are referred for language development in kindergarten, grades 1 and 2; and
- 3) Training volunteers from among kindergarten and grade 1 parents to engage in language and literacy activities with children.

This project benefits both parents and children involved. It is anticipated that the resource centre will be set up with a core group of parents trained to run it in future years. In addition a parent brochure of language activities will be developed.

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### ***The Selkirk Able Authors Club***

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#### **Address**

Selkirk Adult Learning Centre  
425 Eveline Street  
Selkirk, MB R1A 2J5  
Tel: (204) 482-7525  
Fax: (204) 785-8124

#### **Contact Person**

Shirley Skogan  
Terrie Moar

#### **Partnerships**

- The Growing Years Program - a Community Action Program for Children initiative of Health Canada located at the Selkirk Friendship Centre
- The Selkirk Friendship Centre, Lord Selkirk School Division #11
- The National Literacy Secretariat

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To address varying literacy needs of individual participants in a no-risk environment;
- To produce unique reading material for the children of our participants;
- To foster literacy partnerships in our community via laptop publishing library resources, book production and distribution;
- To promote continued upgrading opportunities and access to existing community supports;
- To raise the profile of literacy in its various forms in our community.

#### **Project Description**

The focus of this program was on parents with young children. This

project grew out of a request by program participants for more home-made, hands-on reading material. The program focused on producing learner-generated children's books to increase the literacy levels of parents and their children. Parents patterned their computer-produced books on various models, such as the video entitled, "Story Time," themes such as Valentine's Day, and special events in their children's lives, such as "Your First Year."

Brainstorming and discussion were used as starting points and participants illustrated their stories with graphics from programs such as *Print Shop Deluxe*. Referrals were received from local child-centred agencies, such as *Growing Years*, provided transportation and babysitting for our mostly single, and often financially disadvantaged participants. There are two Project Facilitators, two Babysitters, and an Outreach Worker involved in the project, which operated for seven months, twice weekly, using the Selkirk Friendship Centre and the local United Church.

The Centre has also introduced "Rhyme and Reason," a program inspired by the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program in Toronto, Ontario.

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### ***Seniors Mentor Intergenerational Literacy and Early Childhood - SMILE***

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#### **Address**

Minnedosa Adult Literacy  
Program  
Box 367  
Minnedosa, MB R0J 1E0  
Tel: (204) 867-5007  
Fax: (204) 867-1996

**Contact Person**

Alexis Harvey

**Partnerships**

- Minnedosa Regional Library, Minnedosa Services to Seniors

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage appropriate pre-literacy and early years school readiness, particularly for young children from needy family situations;
- To increase bonds of friendship and understanding between young children and senior volunteers, recognizing that these groups are an invaluable resource to each other.

**Project Description**

This program is an early years pre-literacy stimulation program that involved children (ages three-five years) and seniors. Young children from families who were identified as needing support were encouraged to take part, along with other children from the community. The program was facilitated by the coordinator, who encouraged gathering and sharing time (songs and rhymes and story time), followed by reading buddy activities (literacy activity and "one on one" reading scattered through the library). The session ran biweekly over seven months and was reinforced with an afternoon of family literacy activities.

Circle Time proved to be very popular, as children would gather around a collection of "easy reads" while seniors take part. This activity was especially attractive to those who were looking for new books to read with their buddies, books they had already read or books to sign out before leaving for home. The first half hour of "gathering time" tied children and seniors together

through new and old poetry, songs and games and story tales, as well some movement, while bridging early literacy activities with seniors' interests and experience.

Nearly half of the participating families took out family library memberships. Both parents and seniors remarked on the contact that was special to both parties, as today's children and grandparents are often many miles removed and often have less frequent opportunity to connect. The project publicized the adult literacy program which is new to the town and surrounding region.

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***Steering Committee - Centre of Excellence for Children's Well Being***


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**Address**

c/o Social Planning Council of  
Winnipeg  
412 McDermot Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0A9  
Tel: (204) 943-2561  
Fax: (204) 942-3221  
Email: spc@solutions.net

**Contact Person**

Sharon Reid

**Partnerships**

The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the following associations:

- Social Planning Council, Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre
- Native Affairs Secretariat, United Way of Winnipeg
- Children & Youth Secretariat, University of Manitoba
- Inner City Review Committee, The Winnipeg Foundation
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg,

- Mount Carmel Clinic, Adoption Council of Manitoba
- City of Winnipeg Community Services, Child Welfare League of Canada
- Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre, Manitoba Public Health

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To strategize about the development of a Centre of Excellence for Children's Well-Being in Winnipeg;
- To organize a spring research forum for the sharing of practical and research-based information to community stakeholders.

#### **Project Description**

For the past several months, a number of community stakeholders with a shared professional interest in child-focused research and its practical implications for improving how we care for and serve our children, have met to strategize about the development of a Centre of Excellence for Children's Well-Being in Winnipeg.

Through their discussions, the Steering Committee has agreed on several guiding principles for the Centre, including that it must be community-based and that the development process must involve soliciting broad-based involvement and support.

With the availability of current research findings and opportunities, the Committee organized a spring research forum in an effort to share practical information with community stakeholders. This forum was

seen as being the next step in the overall development of a Centre of Excellence. The forum provided an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of research findings and how to apply them in daily practice and service delivery. As well, it provided an opportunity to begin broad community discussions regarding research, its applications and the role that a Centre of Excellence for Children's Well-Being could or should play within the community.

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#### ***Traveling Family Literacy Program***

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##### **Address**

Springfield Literacy Supports  
Organization  
c/o 543 Holland Street  
Dugald, MB R0E 0K0  
Tel: (204) 853-7929

##### **Contact Person**

Lee Jakubic

##### **Partnerships**

##### **Goals of the Project**

- To assist communities and families to promote literacy in the home;
- To provide access to family literacy materials and activities for rural areas.

##### **Project Description**

This project provides family literacy programs to towns in the area. Family reading circles, book bag programs, and parent workshops are offered in consultation with local community groups.



# Family Literacy Projects in New Brunswick

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## ***Born to Read***

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### **Address**

Provincial Chapter of New Brunswick IODE  
40 Union Street  
St. Stephen, NB E3L 1T5  
Tel: (506) 466-1479

### **Contact Person**

Shirley Downey, Assistant Education Officer

### **Partnerships**

- Office of the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick
- NB IODE, Conseil Alpha Bathurst Chaleur
- Les Dames d'Acadie, Club Richlieu

### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote the love of reading in children and families;
- To build self-esteem in children;
- To facilitate the bonding process between parents and children;
- To promote school success;
- To increase language awareness in children.

### **Project Description**

The Born to Read program provides book bags to newborns and their moms at hospitals and well-baby clinics throughout New Brunswick. Each bag includes a letter for parents on the importance of reading aloud to children, and four children's books which allows for variety as to book type. Examples of children's books include:

- a) rhyming books, which promote parent-child interaction,

- b) "baby's first" books with plastic coating,

- c) board books, which are easy to handle and durable,

- d) Peek-a-boo books, which promote interaction,

- e) books on feelings, and

- f) concept books, e.g., opposites, shapes.

As well, a book that is aimed at the two or three year old child is always included, in case there are other children in the home, or in case they never get another book.

This program is actively supported by New Brunswick's Lieutenant-Governor Marilyn Trenholme Counsell. She donates one book to each Born to Read tote bag (*The Little Engine That Could and Que se passe-t-il chez les voyelles?*)

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## ***Centre des Ressources pour Parents du Restigouche***

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### **Address**

Restigouche Resource Centre for Parents  
1 Tingley  
Campbellton, NB E3N 1G7  
Tel: (506) 753-4172  
Fax: (506) 753-0007  
Email: crppres@nbnet.nb.ca

### **Contact Person**

Nicole Bernard, Coordinator

### **Partnerships**

- Health Canada

### **Goals of the Project**

- To support and strengthen families, by providing both a place and

opportunities for children and their parents (or caregivers) to come together;

- To share with one another and to receive practical information and skills related to parenting and caring for young children.

#### **Project Description**

The Resource Centre offers activities and support services to families, parents, and caregivers of children between the ages of birth and six years old. Parents are encouraged to share their ideas and knowledge in order for the Centre to fulfill its purpose and to be effective in meeting the needs of families. Parental involvement is required, and consists of participation on different committees.

Programs offered include: a) Collective Kitchens; b) Drop-in Centre; c) Nobody's Perfect; d) Parent Support Groups; e) Documentation Centre; f) Workshops with guest speakers; g) Leisure Sponsoring; h) Caregivers Cooperative; i) Grandparents Directory; j) Preschool Cooperative; k) Toy lending library.

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#### ***Fredericton Regional Family Resource Centre***

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##### **Address**

678 Union Street  
Fredericton, NB E3A 3N7  
Tel: (506) 474-0252  
Fax: (506) 474-0253  
Email: frfrc@nbnet.nb.ca

##### **Contact Person**

Beth Corey, Coordinator

##### **Partnerships**

- Health Canada: Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)

##### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide a place for parents/guardians or caregivers and their

children to interact with each other and to improve their physical, mental, and social well-being through their involvement with the various programs within the organization;

- To enhance positive parenting skills;
- To improve the health and safety of preschool children;
- To provide information, support and referral services to parents.

#### **Project Description**

The Fredericton Regional Family Resource Centre offers meeting space and a variety of opportunities for families to share, learn, and grow. It is directed by a community board and operates with three salaried staff. Volunteers are actively involved in all aspects of the Centre and are crucial to its success.

The Centre offers family drop-ins, special events, a resource library, a toy-lending library, and information and referral services. There are a variety of programs offered, including Parent Topics and Children's Play Groups, Babies Time Out, Nobody's Perfect - for Fathers, and a Reading Circle that specifically promotes reading aloud to children at an early age. The major program focus is on effective parenting and child development. The Centre strives to raise public awareness on parent/child issues and the importance of the preschool years.

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#### ***Moncton Headstart Literacy Program***

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##### **Address**

1111 Mountain Road  
Moncton, NB E1C 2S9  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel: (506) 858-8252

Fax: (506) 857-3170  
 Email: headstrt@nb.sympatico.ca

### **Contact Person**

Connie Keating

### **Partnerships**

- Literacy New Brunswick Inc.
- Moncton Headstart Early Family Intervention Inc.

### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide socially, emotionally and educationally disadvantaged parents and pre-school children with a professional, non-threatening and accessible learning environment that will enable the family to become whole, self-sufficient and contributing members of the community;
- To help families in fulfilling their basic needs;
- To assist parents in recognizing the importance of developing a relaxing and enjoyable environment for the child;
- To tutor children in order to help them reach or remain at the same level as others in their class;
- To increase each child's self-esteem;
- To maintain good relationships with children at risk and their families.

### **Project Description**

Moncton Headstart officially began in the winter of 1974, with a tiny staff, in a small apartment in central Moncton. It started with a children's program with little funding and no appreciable parent involvement. In effect, it was a free daycare for a few children whose parents could not afford outside care and who were unskilled in their parental role. The need for an addition of a parent involvement program was obvious. Since the program's inception, the number of children served has in-

creased and the organization is serving parents and children in an increasing number of ways.

Headstart is a place where pre-school children can begin their learning in an environment sensitive to their particular needs. The program aims to break the cycle that welfare imposes by a series of interventions in all areas of the child's life - economic, physical, social and intellectual. The approach is based on the premise (and research) that the earlier the intervention and the longer the support lasts, the greater the rate of success.

The programs offered are as follows: Early Family Intervention; The Teaching Kitchen; The Literacy Program; Future Horizons Housing Inc.; The Lorne Preston Scholarship Fund; and, Headstart and the Community. These programs provide a varied range of services, such as:

- a) access to housing;
- b) exposure to role models;
- c) stimulating and interesting learning opportunities;
- d) having responsibilities;
- e) encouragement and praise;
- f) choices and options;
- g) working directly with schools.

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### ***Parenting for Literacy: A Training Program for Family Resource and Early Intervention Personnel***

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#### **Address**

University of New Brunswick  
 Early Childhood Centre - Faculty of Education  
 Bay Service #45333  
 Fredericton, NB E3B 6E3  
 Tel: (506) 453-5024  
 Fax: (506) 453-3569

Email: [eccentre@unb.ca](mailto:eccentre@unb.ca)

### Contact Person

Pamela Mason, Project Director  
Anne Hunt, Classroom  
Coordinator

### Partnerships

- University of New Brunswick, Literacy New Brunswick Inc.
- New Brunswick Health and Community Services
- New Brunswick Department of Education
- Fredericton Regional Family Resource Centre
- Health Canada (Canada Action Program for Children - National Projects Fund)

### Goals of the Project

- To enhance the ability of participants to communicate and collaborate with other professionals;
- To foster a more coordinated and coherent approach to developing a more literate community;
- To develop the literacy component of homes and/or centre-based programs currently offered;
- To mobilize seniors and other community volunteers to assist with program implementation;
- To offer parent education and support for fostering reading, writing, speaking, listening, and numeracy development through everyday activities in the home;
- To forge new connections with other professionals and to develop strategies for working with families in order to strengthen links between centres, homes and schools.

### Project Description

The Parenting for Literacy program is offering training sessions for early intervention and family resource centre personnel during the months of May, June, September and October of 1998. Participants spend two days

at the early childhood centre on the University of New Brunswick campus, where they attend sessions designed to assist them in their work with families and young children. Unique to this training is the opportunity to view and participate in the onsite Parenting for Literacy Program. This program brings parents and their children to the Early Childhood Centre to work and play together, and apart, with emphasis on developing literacy skills.

Trainees will explore in theory and in practice the four elements deemed by the National Centre for Family Literacy as critical for successful family literacy programs:

- a) developmental experiences for young children;
- b) parenting for literacy education for adults;
- c) time for parents and children to practice the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing together;
- d) support groups for parents to share experiences and overcome obstacles.

In an effort to enhance their capacity to communicate and collaborate with other professionals, and to foster a more coordinated and coherent approach, trainees will prepare for and reflect on their observations and practical experiences in peer support groups and in personal and e-mail conversations professionals and paraprofessionals serving parent and early childhood literacy education. Follow up support in the communities will be provided. The trainers will also be available via e-mail for discussion.

Each training session will provide interactive time with parents and children and time for discussion. a

limit of ten participants per session will assure that there is time to address specific issues and concerns that the participants raise. Enrollment in each session is limited although there will be space for every one to participate in spring or fall sessions. There is no charge for training, a luncheon will be available on site.

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***PRUDE, Inc. (Pride of Race, Unity & Dignity Through Education)***

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**Address**

47 Charlotte Street  
Saint John, NB E2L 2H8  
Tel: (506) 634-3088  
Fax: (506) 634-6080

**Contact Person**

Ralph Thomas, President;  
Darlene Lamey

**Partnerships**

- Literacy New Brunswick, Saint John Regional Library
- Loch Lomand Mall Bookstore, PRUDE Inc.

**Goals of the Project**

- To increase the self-esteem of young people;
- To promote shared reading and activities between parents and their children;
- To provide resources and an environment that are culturally designed and conducive to learning;
- To support parents in their involvement with educational materials.

**Project Description**

Prude Inc. is a non-profit community organization which serves to enhance the Black Communities of New Brunswick. PRUDE (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education) INC. was incorporated in the city of Saint John, New Brun-

wick in 1981. The organization is dedicated to the full participation of the black community in the social, cultural and economic fabric of mainstream New Brunswick life.

Intercultural education is not being taught in the schools, and because of this, most cultural parents today do not have the resources available to teach or to introduce their children to their cultural history. They themselves were not taught. Library resources on these subjects are almost non-existent. There are very little resources for young children to enjoy accurate cultural stories and history at their age. The reception of this information is widely favorable, which is resulting in a continuous stream of more requests.

As an organization based in education, literacy and community development, we are concerned about the inaccurate and almost non-existent reading material available to teach our children who they are, where they came from and how great the possibilities of what they can accomplish are. Another component of the problem is the effect that this unavailability of information has and continues to have on people of all heritages and ages. This creates cultural unrest, unnecessary fear and misunderstandings of world history. As human beings, we always look to our past to help us create a path for the future.

This program allows parents to become involved in their preschoolers education and literacy development. Families reading together build lasting bonds and encourage children along their paths of learning. Our organization has an African Heritage Room, which is culturally

designed and conducive to learning. This room holds culturally correct material from preschool to elementary level. Preschool story time is held with a member of our staff, once a week and the reading room is open to families from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm each work day. Parents are encouraged and expected to participate with the child in fun literacy- and culture-based activities.

Through example our experienced staff demonstrates how to be a mentor and positive influence in the lives of youth, assisting in developing self esteem, confidence building, and goal setting. During the life of the project the parents are given practical experience in presenting information to their children through a gradual decrease in staff responsibilities and an increase in parental participation. Parents are given the opportunity to show leadership and over time they will build confidence and continue to utilize the Heritage Room and their reading skills to develop knowledge and security with their children. The project formally runs for the period of six months, but the availability of material and the Heritage Room to parents and their children will be continuous.

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### *Read To Me*

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#### **Address**

New Brunswick Committee on  
Literacy  
88 Prospect Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 2T8  
Tel: (506) 457-1227  
In New Brunswick:  
(800) 563-2211  
FAX: (506) 458-1352  
Email: nbcomlit@BrunNet.net

#### **Contact Person**

Jan Greer, Executive Director,  
NBCL

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat
- New Brunswick Department of Education, Frontier College, New Brunswick Committee on Literacy

#### **Goals of the Project**

- Read To Me is a literacy awareness initiative designed:
- To promote parent-child reading;
- To motivate children to want to read and be read to at an early age;
- To provide access information about literacy services.

#### **Project Description**

Read To Me is a family literacy promotion directed toward families of young children. English kindergarten children (approximately 6800) receive a t-shirt which says, "Read To Me." The design on the shirt is a wide-eyed child holding an open book upward. T-shirts were chosen as an economical promotional tool, because they reach the target audience, can be seen by others, remain in the family, and can be passed on to others. The Department of Education donated the delivery of materials to English schools throughout the Province.

A brochure was developed and is delivered with the t-shirts, which informs parents of the importance of early home reading, tips on reading to children, how to choose books and how to develop literacy-rich environments at home. The brochure also indicates how adults may also obtain help with literacy difficulties.

Educators have been encouraged to offer feedback on the promotional program and have been pleased with family responses and assistance to

promote the importance of reading  
and literacy in the home.





# Family Literacy Projects in Newfoundland and Labrador

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## *Eager to Learn*

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### **Address**

The R.E.A.D.Y. Centre  
Community Services Council  
2nd Floor, 365 Water Street  
P. O. Box 1191  
St. John's, NF A1C 5M9  
Tel: (709) 726-4335  
Fax: (709) 726-7237

### **Contact Person**

Darlene Scott

### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Community Services Council
- R.E.A.D.Y. Centre Advisory Committee on Research

### **Goals of the Project**

- To design a Communication Skills course tentatively titled, Family Literacy: Promoting Literacy in Our Children, for inclusion in the Adult Basic Education curriculum.

### **Project Description**

The R.E.A.D.Y. Centre is researching and designing a course which will provide parents with the tools, information, skills, and resource information to improve and promote literacy among their preschool-aged children. This project began in the fall of 1997 and is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1998.

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## *Family Literacy Project*

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### **Address**

Provincial Information and Library Resources Board  
Provincial Resource Library

Arts and Culture Centre

St. John's, NF A1B 3A3

Tel: (709) 737-3317

Fax: (709) 737-2660

Email: hmyers@calvin.stemnet.nf.ca

### **Contact Person**

Heather Myers

### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Provincial Public Libraries Board

### **Goals of the Project**

- To help new parents encourage an early love of language play, stories and books in their infants;
- To lay the groundwork for literacy development in children.

### **Project Description**

This project provided family literacy resources which are distributed to mothers of newborns at Grace Hospital in Newfoundland. Resources include:

- a) a video, "Your Loving Words - Sharing Language with Your Baby," which is shown regularly on closed circuit TV at Grace Hospital;
- b) a calendar, with rhymes, recommended books and development and safety information on each page;
- c) kits containing the calendar, a picture book, and library information brochures for distribution to mothers at Grace Hospital.

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### *The Family Room*

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**Address**

Gander Bay and Area Family  
Resource Centre  
c/o Riverwood Academy  
Wing's Point, NF A0G 4T0  
Tel: (709) 676-2009

**Contact Person**

Kimberley Cooper, Renee  
Hodder, or Karen Ash.

**Partnerships**

- Community Action Program for Children - Health and Welfare Canada
- Province of Newfoundland and Labrador

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide a comfortable place where parents and children from birth to age six can gather and take part in various programs.

**Project Description**

The Family Room offers parents/caregivers and their children a place away from routines and rules of home, where they can play and have fun together, and participate in a variety of programs. All services are free, and transportation can be arranged by calling the Centre. Programs are offered at various locations, including Riverwood Academy, Gander Bay; the new Salvation Army Church, Hornwood; Ridgewood Academy, Stoneville; Davidsville/Main Point.

Programs offered include: a drop-in play with arts and crafts, library area, games and puzzles, and a baby area; a read-with-me program which is a weekly storytime and accompanying activities (children are provided with books and activities on loan); a toy lending library which houses toys, games, and puzzles available to children on loan, along

with a video library; a parent information library which houses books, pamphlets, videos, journals, and magazines, all dealing with parenting issues; a parent library which houses books and magazines for pleasure reading.

Also available are support groups for issues such as breastfeeding, single parents and challenging needs; parent education, such as the Nobody's Perfect program, life skills, behaviour management and communications; a community kitchen where parents can prepare and sample a variety of food from the Canada's Food Guide; and finally a healthy baby club for pregnant woman and babies up to six months old, which provides home visits, nutritional assessments, nutrition education, and prenatal classes offered by the public health nurse.

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### *The Fun and Learning Centre*

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**Address**

Fogo Island Literacy Association  
P. O. Box 15  
Stag Harbour, NF A0G 4B0  
Tel: (709) 266-2328  
Fax: (709) 266-2568

**Contact Person**

Della Coish, Literacy Project  
Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Fogo Island Literacy Association, Venture Academy
- Literacy Development Council of Newfoundland and Labrador

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide educational opportunities for parents and children together;
- To provide a comfortable environment where parents can learn

about the importance of early socialization, reading and learning;

- To familiarize adults and children with a variety of educational opportunities that are available.

### **Project Description**

The Fun and Learning Centre at Venture Academy is equipped to accommodate 20 children at this time. All children must be accompanied by a parent or primary care-giver. The Centre is not a 'drop-off,' so parents are not permitted to leave the building while their child is in the Centre. There are no paid staff, so parents must volunteer.

There are painting, dress-up and arts/crafts centres and there is an emphasis on reading. There is a "reading corner" where children sit and look at books, or have books read to them by a parent. The Centre highlights the need to make books, conversation and learning a part of every child's life. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children from a very early age (infancy to five years). No registration fees are required, as this could prevent some parents and children from coming to the Centre.

The Fun and Learning Centre is open mornings, Monday through Friday and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The number of children that use the Centre on a regular basis is approximately 60-75. Many parents have commented upon the usefulness of the Centre as a family literacy tool and upon the overall educational value of the Centre. The Fun and Learning Centre has been a positive step in building awareness of family literacy and has also worked to bring adults into literacy and adult basic education projects.

The New Readers Program is another project of the Fogo island Liter-

acy Association and involves the distribution of a literacy gift to new parents upon their arrival home with the new baby. Local volunteers make the packages covered with a receiving blanket and ribbon drawstring. Inside, parents find information on the importance of reading to baby from a very early age and making books a treasured part of the child's life. The package also contains a sturdy brightly coloured board book for the baby and an age appropriate book for his/her siblings. All parents are targeted for this program and many learn about the Fun and Learning Centre through this program.

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### ***Mother and Child Reading Circles***

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#### **Address**

Educational Planning and Design Associates  
18 Leslie Street  
St. John's, NF A1E 2V6  
Tel: (709) 753-8815  
Fax: (709) 753-8856  
Email: fennis@nf.sympatico.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Frances Ennis

#### **Partnerships**

- The Provincial Association Against Family Violence, Educational Planning and Design Associates

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To foster the development of family literacy programs with mothers and children who are, or who have been, residents of transition houses in Newfoundland and Labrador.

#### **Project Description**

Central to this program are the values of mutual respect, equality, and

regaining power and control. The program model in this project recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of literacy; as such, it is about how women and children use their knowledge and experience to learn and survive in an often unfriendly world, how they use reading and writing in their lives, and how they can develop new skills to function more effectively in their environment.

This program recognizes the importance of parental involvement in different kinds of learning, such as:

- a) working on their own literacy skills,
- b) addressing issues and concerns through group discussions,
- c) developing approaches to working with the school system,
- d) reading and writing with their children, and
- e) encouraging the development of home language and culture.

In addition, the curriculum used in this project builds on women's and children's personal and family strengths, acknowledge the context of their lives, and respect and reflect the learning needs of women and their pre-school and school-aged children.

There are three components to this program:

- The introductory workshop offers activities for mothers and children to work in separate groupings, and for mothers to try out with their children. It provides women with an opportunity to explore their own educational needs, to examine some of the barriers to education they experience on a daily basis, and to engage in literacy activities for their own personal

development and enjoyment. In addition, mothers learn about literacy development, and how play and children's natural activities can help prepare them for the school environment. They are introduced to activities that can assist their school-aged children to develop and maintain literacy skills.

- Parents as tutors - Parents are trained to be tutors during a four-day on-site training course. Participants are asked to read materials, review resources and carry out related activities prior to the training. The course content includes an introduction to the theory and practice of the development of reading and writing skills; issues related to women and children who have experienced violence in their lives; models of family literacy programs; and concrete examples and suggestions for organizing programs, exploring funding possibilities, and writing proposals.
- Family Resource Materials will be collected and assembled for distribution to each of the provincial transition houses in the fall of 1998. The materials will consist of manuals with suggested activities and strategies for developing reading and writing skills with adults and children, reading material of interest to women, and a selection of popular children's literature.

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### *Nourishing Foundations for Literacy Development (NFLD)*

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#### **Address**

Conception Bay North Laubach  
Literacy Council

P. O. Box 188  
 Carbonear, NF A1Y 1B5  
 Tel: (709) 596-1223

#### **Contact Person**

William Bishop

#### **Partnerships**

- Conception Bay North Laubach Literacy Council

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise awareness of parents of young children (birth-five) to their important role of nourishing the foundations for literacy development;
- To assist parents to engage in family literacy activities.

#### **Project Description**

Nourishing Foundations for Literacy Development (NFLD) emphasizes development of literacy skills in children by nourishing strong foundations for literacy development during the first five years of children's lives. Proponents of NFLD firmly believe that training and engaging the help of thousands of parents to nourish foundations for literacy development in their young children has tremendous potential for promoting literacy in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. This project is still in its developmental stages but a full, intensive curriculum designed to train parents should be available by the Spring of 1998.

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#### ***PRINTS (Parents' Roles Interacting with Teacher Support)***

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#### **Address**

Education, Learning, Literacy Network  
 P. O. Box 21131  
 St. John's, NF A1A 5G6

Tel: (709) 895-2022  
 Fax: (709) 895-2057

#### **Contact Person**

Dr. William T. Fagan (above address)

Dr. James Anderson (c/o Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia)

Dr. Mary Cronin (c/o Faculty of Education, University of Regina)

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Brighter Futures
- Literacy Development Council/Newfoundland and Labrador
- MacMorran and Rabbittown Community Centres (St. John's, NF).

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase parents' awareness of the roles they plan and can play in their children's early literacy development;
- To increase parents' awareness of teachers' roles in early literacy development;
- To increase parents' initiation of positive changes in the home environment;
- To increase teachers' awareness of the roles they plan and can play in their children's early literacy development;
- To support teachers' initiation of positive changes in the school environment;
- To help parents and teachers to become co-parents in the early literacy development of their children.

#### **Project Description**

The PRINTS program is based on a model developed by Hannon and Nutbrown (1996) in England. The underlying premise is that parents and teachers do their best to support children's early literacy develop-

ment, regardless of circumstances. The program runs for 13 two-hour sessions. Parents explore five contexts of strands in which early literacy develops (talk; play; books and book sharing; scribbling, drawing, writing; and environmental print), and they analyze five roles they can play in each context (provide opportunities, recognize or acknowledge involvement, interact through various activities, model, and regulate or set guidelines).

Sessions alternate between parents reflecting on pertinent activities they currently engage in and on developing competency in a total of 34 additional low-cost activities that can foster literacy development across the five contexts. The program is flexible and can be implemented at any time during the year, depending on parents' or teachers' interests.

PRINTS was initiated in 1996, and was implemented in two community centres in the St. John's area: MacMorran and Rabbittown, and at St. Pius X Elementary School. Plans so far are to implement it at St. Patrick's Hall Primary School, through a collaborative group directed by Brighter Futures, St. John's, and in a pre-school learning centre in Regina. The children of the participants ranged from ages two to five.

The facilitator is someone who is familiar with the project. Participants include any group of parents and teachers who wish to better understand and help young children's early literacy development.

A major impact lies in the involvement of the parents as partners, in developing an awareness of the many activities in which they currently engage to support their children's early literacy learning. Parents and teach-

ers develop a greater understanding of each others' roles and they establish greater rapport. Parents become much more confident in meeting with teachers and discussing their children's early literacy development. The children gain considerably because parents are reinforced for support they provide, and they learn a number of additional literacy support activities in which they can engage their children.

The program has produced a first draft of a handbook entitled, *Growing Into Literacy: Handbook of Procedures for the PRINTS Program*.

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### ***Preschool Activity Groups (LIFE Inc.)***

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#### **Address**

P. O. Box 190  
Durrell, NF A0G 1Y0  
Tel: (709) 884-5102  
Fax: (709) 884-5101

#### **Contact Person**

Kimberly Gillard, Literacy  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- LIFE Inc.
- Newfoundland/Labrador Literacy Development Council
- Local Community Organizations

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide three and four year olds with a learning environment that helps foster literacy learning and social development.

#### **Project Description**

This program runs one hour a week from the fall (October/November) to the spring (May/June). Parents/guardians and their three to four-year old children attend the Community Learning Centre, where they engage in a variety of preschool

activities, such as singing, reading, crafts, and snack.

Activities reinforce pre-literacy skills such as learning the alphabet, basic shapes, basic colours and numbers. At the same time, parents may be involved in group discussions with the other parents, in order to learn about literacy development.

This group is operated by community volunteers, with assistance from the local literacy coordinator and is in its second year of operation.

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### ***Pre-school Story Program***

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#### **Address**

Gander Public Library  
P. O. Box 444  
Gander, NF A1V 1X2  
Tel: (709) 256-3459  
Fax: (709) 256-2194  
Email: gpeddle@publih.rf.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Glenda Peddle

#### **Partnerships**

- Provincial Library (funders)

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To introduce pre-schoolers to story telling, books, rhymes, crafts;
- To introduce new parents to the world of libraries and books;
- To heighten awareness of pre-school literacy.

#### **Project Description**

The Pre-school Story Program is designed for three and a half to five-year olds. It runs for ten weeks in the Fall, Winter and Spring, for one hour per week at the Public Library. The program has been running successfully for fifteen years. Parents register their children at the library and

usually remain regular users. Families are introduced to books, magazines, videos.

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### ***Significant Others as Reading Partners (SORT)***

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#### **Address**

Sacred Heart Elementary School  
P. O. Box 79  
Marystown, NF A0E 2M0  
Tel: (7709) 279 - 2051

#### **Contact Person**

Clayton McCarthy

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Sacred Heart Elementary School of Marystown

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide significant others with information about reading practices that support young children as they are learning to read;
- To assist parents support of their children's learning efforts by providing books for home use.

#### **Project Description**

This program is a parent intervention program available to parents of kindergarten children on the Burin Peninsula. There are three part time family resource persons who are responsible for delivering the program. Each month meetings are held at every school on the Peninsula, at which time parents borrow kits consisting of four to six books with an activity sheets to help extend each book. Various topics relating to reading are discussed at each meeting. Demonstration readings of the books are also done at this time also. Showing parents how to select and extend books provides them with the necessary skills to help children become successful readers.





## Family Literacy Projects in Nova Scotia

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### *Annapolis Valley - Hants Community Action Program for Children*

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**Address**

RR#2  
Wolfville, NS  
Tel: (902) 542-3085  
Fax: (902) 542-1154  
Email:  
raven.avhcapc@ns.sympatico.ca

**Contact Person**

Pauline Raven

**Partnerships**

- Community Learning Initiative, Community Action Program for Children
- Nova Scotia Community College at Kingstec, Kings County Learning Association, Apple Tree landing Children's Centre, Canning United Baptist Church

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide educational upgrading opportunities for young mothers in conjunction with early literacy opportunities for their children.

**Project Description**

This is a participant driven program that incorporates the broad interests of women who are parenting in low-income circumstances and were themselves "early school leavers". In addition to the educational upgrading for the young mothers, a "Jump Start" program is offered to children ages 2 through 5 years in order to foster early literacy development. Both of these projects are available at no charge to participants. As well, as

this is a full-day program, meals are provided free of charge.

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### *Antigonish County Adult Learning Association*

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**Address**

42 West St.  
Antigonish, NS  
Tel: (902) 863-4494  
Fax: (902) 863-4494  
Email: jcairns@ns.sympatico.ca

**Contact Person**

Judy Cairns

**Partnerships**

- Community Learning Initiatives (CLI), National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada, community donations
- Antigonish Municipality, Laubach Literacy

**Goals of the Project**

- To promote and deliver adult literacy and upgrading programs and family and community literacy activities.

**Project Description**

This program offers adult upgrading and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation classes in small groups with an instructor and volunteer support workers as required. As well, reading activities with a volunteer coordinator and parent participation are offered to children and families. The target group is adults of all ages and their families. The adult program runs from September through to May, both days and evenings, three to four classes per week,

and two to four hours per class. The family literacy group meets every second Sunday afternoon for two hours per activity. There is no fee for literacy or upgrading programs or books. There is a registration fee for GED preparation classes. Participants are responsible for any other expenses.

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### ***Break the Cycle of Family Illiteracy***

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#### **Address**

Box 116, Caledonia  
Queens County, NS B0T 1B0  
Tel: (902) 682-2786

#### **Contact Person**

Alice Drysdale

#### **Partnerships**

- Community Learning Initiative grants
- North Queens Health Association, North Queens Schools
- Nova Scotia Power, Mersey Bowaters

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase the level of literacy of families in the area;
- To provide educational upgrading for adults.

#### **Project Description**

This program targets families identified as being at high risk to not succeed without intervention. Two forty-minute sessions are offered per week in order to provide a concentrated effort aimed at strengthening reading and writing skills of families. A monthly newsletter is published and distributed in order to show students' work.

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### ***Cape Breton Family Place Resource Centre***

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#### **Address**

106 Townsend Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5E1  
Tel: (902) 562-5616  
Fax: (902) 562-5616  
Email: family@auracom.com

#### **Contact Person**

JoAnna LaTulippe-Rochon

#### **Partnerships**

- Health Canada, in partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To enhance the health and well being of families with children birth to six years.

#### **Project Description**

This project provides programs and services to families with young children (birth-six years of age). As well, prenatal services are offered through Canada's Prenatal Nutrition Program. This is a Community Action Program for Children. Services include parent support and education, school readiness programs, reading circles, play groups, early intervention home visit programs, parent chat nights, Mother Goose programs, drop-in and toy/resource lending libraries.

There are ten staff who work across Cape Breton Island and who perform outreach work in surrounding areas. Offices are as follows:

- a) Cape Breton Regional Municipality  
106 Townsend Street  
Sydney, NS B1P 5E1
- b) Port Hawksbury/  
Richmond County  
c/o Active Living Centre  
Arichat, NS

c) Inverness County  
Central Avenue  
Inverness, NS B0E 1N0

d) Victoria County  
General Delivery  
Inapnish Beach, NS B0C 1L0

This project has been in operation since March, 1994. Evaluation results on a national, regional and local level all support the fact that these programs are positively impacting on families involved. Resource materials include a video entitled, *Family Place -School Readiness Program*, a volunteer handbook, and a volunteer training manual.

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### ***Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley Family Literacy Network***

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#### **Address**

c/o Eastern Shore Community  
Education Office  
Musquodoboit Harbour, NS  
B0J 2L0  
Tel: (902) 889-4020  
Fax: (902) 889-4037

#### **Contact Person**

Joyce Power, Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Nova Scotia Winter Works, Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Coalition
- Department of Education-Nova Scotia, Marine Drive Community Centre Association, Eastern Shore Family Resource Association

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To break the cycle of poor literacy skills in families;
- To encourage and promote life-long learning;
- To provide specific ways for parents to help improve their children's literacy skills;

- To identify adult learners and encourage them to upgrade their own education.

#### **Project Description**

This program targets parents, children and other adults with poor literacy skills through a series of four workshops at various locations. Each workshop is offered once per week. The cost to participants is \$5.00, or else pay what they can afford.

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### ***Équipe de travail en alphabétisation***

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#### **Address**

C.P. 590  
Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, NS  
B0W 2X0  
Tel: (902) 648-2253  
Fax: 9902) 648-2341

#### **Contact Person**

Yolande Seeley, Provincial  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture (Community Learning Initiative), National Literacy Secretariat
- Collège de l'Acadie, Fédération des parents acadiens de la N.E.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To create local committees in each Acadian community and organize family literacy programs in each one;
- To offer programs to Acadians and francophone parents who want to help their children learn in French;
- To increase public awareness of literacy issues.

#### **Project Description**

This project targets French Acadians in Nova Scotia. It offers two programs. The first is "J'apprends pour mon enfant", which consists of four

workshops for French parents to help them help their children with educational development. Workshops are offered once per week for four weeks, two and a half hours each week. The second program is "Jouer et apprendre", which engages preschoolers and their parents in activities, such as sing-songs, cut and paste pictures, colouring, crafts, puzzles, mobiles, games and tobogganing in winter. It is offered once per week for six weeks, with each session lasting two hours. There is no cost to participants.

Resources include:

- a) "J'apprends pour mon enfant", manual and guide
- b) "J'ai une histoire à raconter"
- c) "J'me prépare pour l'école"
- d) "J'apprends mon enfant"

There are four booklets that correspond to J'apprends pour mon enfant. They include: *Apprendre, découvrir son monde!* (Learn, discover your world!), *Lire, quel plaisir!* (Read for fun!), *Écrire, faire danser les mots!* (Writing make the words dance), and *La communication parent-école, parlons-en!* (Parent-school communication, let's talk about it!).

- e) A family literacy video about the role of parents and the importance of starting to read to children from birth. The 15 minute video, produced in French, is called *Des la naissance* (From Birth).

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### ***Family Education Enhances Development - F.E.E.D.***

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#### **Address**

East Preston Day Care Centre  
1794 Highway #7  
East Preston, NS B2Z 1E9  
Tel: (902) 462-0054  
Fax: (902) 462-5744

#### **Contact Person**

Mrs. Joyce Ross

#### **Partnerships**

- Black Educators Association, Community Learning Initiative

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To develop literacy activities for parents;
- To support parents and their desire to be more involved in their children's educational development.

#### **Project Description**

This program targets children and their parents in the East Preston Day Care Program. The program is 16 weeks in length, with one two-hour session each week for the parents at the Centre, and a one-hour session for the families at home. The sessions focus on group activities, assignments, skills development and participation. This is available at no cost to participants.

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### ***Family Literacy Afrocentric Program***

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#### **Address**

Nelson Whynder Elementary School  
Site 5, S. S. 2, North Preston  
Dartmouth East, NS B2W 3Y5  
Tel: (902) 462-6030  
Fax: (902) 462-6033

#### **Contact Person**

Ken Fells, Principal

#### **Partnerships**

- Nova Scotia Department of Education, African Canadian Services Division.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To develop cultural awareness and lifelong learning of families of Nelson Whynder School;

- To support families to participate with school in promoting student learning.

#### **Project Description**

Nelson Whynder offers a unique Afrocentric curriculum for its African Nova Scotian community. Within this curriculum, the school becomes a base for community activity.

Within the elementary school, four adult literacy programs are offered. These programs make educational opportunities more accessible for families in the community and encourage families to feel at ease in the school. An early childhood education program serves the Adult Basic Education program and parents are involved in activities developed for both programs. Seniors and teens in the community participate in Preston Area Learning Skills (PALS), which is a tutoring program.

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#### ***Family Literacy Initiatives***

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##### **Address**

Halifax Regional Library  
5381 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, NS B3J 1E9  
Tel: (902) 490-5887

##### **Contact Person**

Sara Brodie, Adult Services  
Librarian

##### **Partnerships**

- Much of programming and outreach activities are done by library staff; however some activities do require co-sponsors. Past sponsors include:
- Canada Council, The Discovery Centre, Local universities
- Community Services Department - Children's Reading Support Program

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To support both adult and child literacy through numerous programs and activities;
- To develop and maintain reading skills and foster a love of reading in children and families;
- To foster a positive relationship between families and library staff;
- To promote family literacy.

#### **Project Description**

The Halifax Regional Library supports both adult and child literacy through numerous programs and activities. The Library runs adult upgrading programs in a number of branches and also offers a reading support program for children in the Halifax North Memorial Public Library and the Captain William Spry Public Library.

All branches of the Halifax Regional Library offer a variety of programs to families to help foster a love of reading and learning. For example, many branches offer Tales for Twos and preschool drop-in programs, where youngsters and adults are invited into the library for interactive storytelling and games. All Halifax Regional Library branches participate in the Summer Reading Program which is planned and promoted by Nova Scotia's Regional Libraries and the Provincial Library. The purpose of the program is to develop and maintain reading skills and foster a love of reading in children and families. In addition, such programs help to foster a positive relationship between families and library staff. There are activities and reading incentives for independent readers (ages five - ten and another club for ages 11+), as well as a Book Buddies program for pre-readers (ages three and up) who, with an

adult “buddy”, are encouraged to read a wide variety of library books together as a family in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

The Library has produced a Family Literacy Resource List that is made available to members of the public, and contains a listing of some of the library resources available that might be useful to parents, caregivers, teachers and others who have an interest in family literacy.

Librarians are often going out into the community and speaking to organizations such as daycares, schools, literacy groups, and home schooling associations, in order to promote the library and its resources.

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### *Learning Together*

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#### **Address**

Hants Shore Community Centre  
R. R. #1 Newport  
Hants County, NS B0N 2A0  
Tel: (902) 633-2110  
Fax: (902) 633-2332

#### **Contact Person**

Patricia Helliwell

#### **Partnerships**

- Hants Shore Health Centre, Nova Scotia Department of Education, Dr. Arthur Hines School, National Literacy Secretariat.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To help parents support their children’s learning in home and at school.

#### **Project Description**

Learning Together is a series of three family workshops offered to parents which focuses on reading together, writing together, issues in children’s learning. The response has been excellent and family booklets which are clear and colourful have been devel-

oped for participants in the workshops.

For more information on training to conduct Learning Together workshops and on parent booklets, contact: Literacy Facilitator, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture, (902) 679-6203.

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### *Learning Together Workshops, and Peers Helping Peers project*

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#### **Address**

Town House  
14 Commercial Street  
Glace Bay, NS B1A 3C1  
Tel: (902) 849-2449  
Fax: (902) 849-2449

#### **Contact Person**

Kathryn MacCuish, Marilyn Ruelland

#### **Partnerships**

- Learning Together - funded by Cape Breton Literacy Network
- Peers Helping Peers - funded by Nova Scotia Department of Community Services
- Glace Bay Citizens Service League

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To help parents become active partners in their children’s learning;
- To develop, implement, and evaluate a delivery mechanism to support the provision of literacy skills based on a mutual exchange model.

#### **Project Description**

Using the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture program, a series of four two-hour workshops were developed for parents called “Learning Together.” It is facilitated by community members for parents, in industrial Cape Breton. Materials are available from the Nova Scotia

Department of Education and Culture at a cost of \$15.00 per set.

The "Peers Helping Peers" project addresses the growing need for community-based literacy opportunities. It allows individuals to acquire academic and literacy upgrading in a supportive environment. Staff consists of a qualified instructor and a childcare worker, while participants are community members as students and tutors. The project operates at the Devco Building in Glace Bay.

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### ***Lequille Family Learning Centre***

#### **Address**

RR #1, Box 9  
Lequille, NS  
Tel: (902) 532-5155

#### **Contact Person**

Phyllis Currie

#### **Partnerships**

- Black Educators Association, African-Canadian Services Division
- Lequille Community Council, Annapolis County Learning Network

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To enhance academic skills of adult learners with family support.

#### **Project Description**

This project targets adults and children in the Lequille, Annapolis and surrounding areas. It provides adult basic education (Tier 1) three days per week during the school year. At the same time, a children's program, including homework help and recreational activities, is offered two-days per week during the school year. These programs are free to all who attend. Adult learners are currently compiling a book of poems

that is soon to be published and will be available by contacting the above telephone number.

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### ***Community Learning Initiative (CLI) and Cultural Academic Enrichment Program (CAEP) of the Mulgrave Park Education Committee:***

#### **Address**

#501 - 5261 Richmond Street  
Halifax, NS B3K 3H3  
Tel: (902) 424-2612  
Fax: (902) 424-0636  
Email:  
bordenaretha@ns.sympatico.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Aretha Borden, Regional Educator of the Black Educators Association

#### **Partnerships**

- Black Educators Association; Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture
- Human Resource Development Canada

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To build confidence and positive self esteem in the lives of black youth;
- To encourage social interaction amongst the children who participate;
- To assist in improving educational opportunities for Black Learners, and to provide training and employment opportunities;
- To promote African culture and Afrocentric curriculum ;
- To nurture and train youth to become positive role models in their community;
- To assist in the development of literacy skills which will benefit the local community as a whole;

- To share resources and acquired expertise with other black communities across the province.

### **Project Description**

The Halifax Regional Education Committees for Black Learners are dynamic and proactive organizations committed to ensuring that all Learners receive a quality and equitable education in a safe and healthy environment, through the involvement of Parents, Students, Teachers and all Stakeholders of the Education System.

The primary focus of the Regional Educator is to encourage active participation in the community by:

- *working with Black communities* to form education committees consisting of parents, students and representatives from community groups;
- *assisting the education committees* in establishing an agenda of educational concerns and in developing a plan of action to address these concerns;
- *helping Black communities* organize tutoring programs, conduct workshops and invite guest speakers to discuss issues relevant to Black learners;
- *monitoring the progress* of Black learners and encouraging students to strive for excellence through education;
- *encouraging education committees* to be proactive and work with the education system to develop race relations policies which address issues such as racial name calling, assaults and the discrimination of Black learners.

In addition to community initiatives, the Regional Educators coordinate their efforts with the Department of Education and Culture, the African Canadian Services

Division, local school boards and other educational bodies, to provide a higher standard of education for Black learners in Nova Scotia.

The Regional Educator's involvement includes:

- *working with the education system* to promote change which will assist Black learners in gaining equal access to education.
- *assisting with efforts* to increase the number of Black teachers and support staff employed in the education system.
- *conducting workshops* for teachers and students on race relations and issues related to the education of Black learners.
- *encouraging communication* and cooperation between the education committees and the education system.

Currently, there are two literacy initiatives operating: the Community Learning Initiative (CLI) and the Cultural Academic Enrichment Program (CAEP). Both programs are free of charge. Referrals are made by schools, community agencies, and government departments. A parent committee oversees both the CLI and the CAEP.

Beginning in 1995, the CLI currently operates two to three days per week. The purpose is to have trained, qualified tutors and instructors from the Black community to operate the program for Black adults. At present, there are seven adult learners being tutored in their homes, with group sessions held in a community housing unit.

The CAEP began in 1994. It currently operates two nights per week. The CAEP staff consists of 5 Peer Tutors, two University Specialists, and one Coordinator. At present, 35 students up to grade 12 attend the pro-

gram to improve on, and acquire help with, academics. The local schools work in partnerships with the program, and a teacher liaison serves as an advisor. A computer training program is also a component of CAEP.

Afrocentric learning and African Heritage are built into the program. Although the program is primarily for Black youth, no children are turned away; children from other ethnic and racial backgrounds do attend.

Several community-based resources are used by the programs: services of the Regional Educator, the Education Committees, guest speakers and presenters, in-kind computer equipment, and school and community based support.

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### ***Shelburne and Area Family Learning Program***

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#### **Address**

P. O. Box 1102  
Shelburne, NS B0T 1W0  
Tel: (902) 875-4272  
Fax: (902) 875-1292

#### **Contact Person**

Shelley O'Connor

#### **Partnerships**

- Community Learning Initiative - Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture
- The Shelburne County Learning Network
- Various community groups, and local businesses

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To instill a love of, and appreciation for, lifelong learning through the family;
- To increase self-esteem and confidence among family members;

- To promote the concept of lifelong learning in parents/caregivers and their children.

#### **Project Description**

This program supports the idea that the home is the most important place for learning. Tutors, parents and their children spend one-on-one time working on homework assignments, reading projects, or just discussing better ways to learn. There are group activities, as well as separate learning experiences for parents and children. Learning strategies such as reading skills, questioning skills, and storytelling skills are discussed. Meetings are held weekly at the King Street Centre in Shelburne. Transportation can be arranged for program participants.

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### ***Single Parent Centre***

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#### **Address**

3 Sylvia Ave.  
Halifax, NS B3R 1J7  
Tel: (902) 479-3031  
Fax: (902) 477-2257  
Email: single.parent@  
ns.sympatico.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Joan O'Keefe

#### **Partnerships**

- The Home of the Guardian Angel, Department of Community Services
- The Metro United Way, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax
- private/public donations, Community Action Program for Children (Health Canada)

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To nurture and enhance the quality of life for parents and their children, with special focus on single

parent families, birth families, and adoptive families.

### **Project Description**

A full range of programs are offered to meet the needs of mothers, fathers and children. Opportunities are provided for parents and children to read together and listen to stories. Programs offered include:

- a) Prenatal program Includes lively presentations, discussions and videos about pregnancy, child birth, parenting, legal rights and much more.
- b) Support for newborns and their moms -  
This is for Moms and babies after discharge from the Health Centre. A staff person will visit/assist Mom and Baby at home.
- c) Baby massage time -  
A special time and way for parents and babies, 0-8 months, to be together. (A volunteer who is trained in infant massage facilitates)
- d) Dads and their children -  
Fathers, step-fathers and fathers to be and their children play in the playroom or the children play while dads meet in the coffee room.
- e) Drop-In -  
Parents may come to the coffee room or play in the playroom with their children (birth - five years).

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### ***Sisters of Charity Intergenerational Learning Programme***

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#### **Address**

60 Scotia Court  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 2Z5  
Tel: (902) 466-0987  
Email: mwestwat@msve.ca

### **Contact Person**

Martha Westwater, SC, Ph.D.,  
Director

### **Partnerships**

- Sisters of Charity, Human Resources Development Canada

### **Goals of the Project**

- To assist adult in developing parenting skills by which adult learners become positive role models for their children and become more active in the education of their children.

### **Project Description**

While adult education classes are ongoing, the Sisters of Charity Intergenerational Learning Programme is a pilot venture, operating from 1995-1998. Children learn concurrently with their parents. Adults attend classes daily, except Friday. Children attend after-school sessions from 2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Classes are held within a low income housing unit made available by the Metropolitan Housing Authority. The facility is neighbourhood-centered and the house is within walking distance of participants. Tutors for the adult learners are volunteers, mostly retired Sisters of Charity, and the subjects emphasized are English (reading, comprehension, grammar and usage, writing) and Mathematics. On average the program enrolls approximately 20 children and parents yearly.

Students from Mount Saint Vincent University tutor the children, whose ages range from six to eighteen. A small stipend (\$5.00 per session plus \$1.50 for transportation) is paid to the university students. The greatest impact of the program has been increased self-esteem among

both children and adults. Both classes respond remarkably well to individual and small group attention.

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### ***Thinking, Learning and Communication - TLC3***

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#### **Address**

c/o The Dartmouth Family  
Resource Centre  
96 Highfield Park Drive #111  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4W4  
Tel: (902) 464-8234  
Fax: (902) 464-8232  
Email: df.r.c@ns.sympatico.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Natalie Downey

#### **Partnerships**

- The Lawson Foundation, administered by the C.M. Hincks Institute
- The Dartmouth Family Resource Centre, Dartmouth Preschool

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote language and cognitive development in young children using community-based strategies;
- To promote school readiness and social adaptiveness.

#### **Project Description**

This project services the Dartmouth North area, where there is a high population of families with young children. Access to necessary resources in this community are very limited. The programs are designed for parents and their children, birth to five years, who live in the North Dartmouth area.

This project consists of a set of community-based programs designed to promote language and cognitive development in young

children. The programs offered include:

- a) Enhanced Preschool Program has an emphasis on language and cognitive development through staff training in the Hanen Program, "Involving Teachers as Language Facilitators." Regular home visits with parents as well as regular contact with the TLC-3 Speech-Language pathologist are also included.
- b) Parent education programs focus on methods parents can use to enhance their children's language development during the natural conversations of daily living (following Hanen's "You Make the Difference").
- c) Parent-Child interactive programs:  
Keys to Caregiving -a parent/infant program which demonstrates infant state, infant behaviour, infant cues, state modulation, the feeding interaction, and nurse-patient communication;  
Parent-Tot Song and Story Time - based on the principles of early communication development, this program focuses on parents' use of rhymes, songs, and stories during social routines.
- d) Consultations consist of speech-language pathology consultations, with referrals being made to appropriate professionals as required.

This project is staffed by a Speech-Language Pathologist, Early Childhood Educators, and Parent Group Facilitators. Staff at the Dartmouth Family Resource Centre are also involved in supporting the programs. A TLC3 Advisory Committee exists on-site and is drawn from a cross-section of the community, including professionals and parents.





# Family Literacy Projects in Ontario

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## ***The After School Program***

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### **Address**

Enjikendaasang Learning Centre  
P. O. Box 1299  
Blind River, ON P0R 1B0  
Tel: (705) 356-1621  
Fax: (705) 356-1740

### **Contact Person**

Joanne Boyer, Coordinator

### **Partnerships**

- First Nations Communities of Mississauga, Serpent River, Sagamok, Anishnabek, and Whitefish Lake,
- Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, National Literacy Secretariat

### **Goals of the Project**

- To adopt an aboriginal approach for personal growth and development in order;
- To promote parental involvement in children's school achievement;
- To improve communication between parents and schools;
- To provide a comfortable, safe place for homework;
- To assist students with academics;
- To inform parents on educational issues.

### **Project Description**

The Centre has been in operation since 1987 and has active community involvement. The After School program provides tutoring and homework services. Centre staff also help parents to assist children with school work through workshops and the development of family reading kits for home use. Centre staff are advocates for students and families and assist in

communicating with school regarding children's educational development.

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## ***Alpha Ontario***

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### **Address**

21 Park Road  
Toronto, ON M4W 2N1  
Tel: (416) 397-5900 or  
1-800-363-0007  
Fax: (416) 397-5915  
Email: [alphaont@gwmail.mtrl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:alphaont@gwmail.mtrl.toronto.on.ca)

### **Contact Person**

Gladys Watson

### **Partnerships**

- Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, City of Toronto, National Literacy Secretariat.

### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide literacy resource materials for anglophone, francophone, native, and deaf communities in Ontario;
- To share information and stimulate interest in resources available in the fields of adult literacy and language training materials.

### **Project Description**

Formerly a unit of the Metro Toronto Reference Library, Alpha Ontario now operates as a separate non-profit organization providing a wide range of library services in adult literacy and ESL. In addition to print, audio-visual materials, and educational software, Alpha Ontario publishes two newsletters, *Take Note* and *Quoi de Neuf*.

Any resident of Ontario may borrow materials for four week periods by registering with Alpha Ontario. Within the Metro Toronto area, visitors to the Park Road location may browse and borrow. Outside Toronto, Alpha Ontario will pay postage to send out materials while borrowers are responsible for the cost of returning materials.

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### ***Baby Talk and Ready to Read Kits***

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#### **Address**

Literacy Council of Lincoln  
4996 Beam Street  
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B1  
Tel: (905) 563-1515  
Fax: (905) 563-1810  
Email: [joblit@vaxxine.com](mailto:joblit@vaxxine.com)

#### **Contact Person**

Margaret Maynard

#### **Partnerships**

- Baby Talk - Lincoln Public Library, West Lincoln Public Library
- Ready to Read Kits - Lincoln Women Teachers' Association, United Way
- Ontario Ministry of Health, Rotary Club

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise parental awareness of the importance of reading to children early in life;
- To provide information to adults regarding existing literacy programs;
- To provide books for each family;
- To encourage and support adults in their awareness of family literacy;
- To raise awareness of programs that promote family literacy.

#### **Project Description**

The Baby Talk program consists of a twenty-minute workshop, detailing both the importance of reading to baby and how to read to baby. Examples of appropriate materials, that are available from local libraries, are also included. This workshop is targeted at young mothers, single parents, and at-risk families. Workshops are given upon the request of local agencies, such as public health nurses, or local hospitals.

Ready to Read kits consist of canvas tote bags, that contain information on reading to children as early as possible, tips on what to do and how, a cardboard children's book, and community information and contacts. This program targets new mothers in hospitals, at-risk families through schools, and single mothers through public health nurses and social services. Kits are distributed throughout the Niagara Region free of charge. Since the program was initiated six years ago, 6,000 tote bags have been distributed.

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### ***The Book Bag Club***

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#### **Address**

Schoolhouse Literacy Skills  
P. O. Box 813  
Warton, ON N0H 2T0  
Tel: (519) 534-4911

#### **Contact Person**

Joan Allan

#### **Partnerships**

- Warton Public Library, Ontario Ministry of Education and Training.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote reading in the home;
- To reach children considered 'at risk' for learning by parents or school.

**Project Description**

The Book Bag Club is a library outreach program for a rural community. Volunteers assemble books and tapes in colourful bags by. Trained volunteers visit homes on a consistent basis and engage in shared reading and book selection with families.

Schoolhouse Literacy also distributes Moms and Tots kits to new parents and has reading circles for parents with preschoolers.

**Book Bandits Early Readers Club****Address**

Walden Play and Learn  
Co-operative, Inc.  
5 - 3 Westview Crescent  
Lively, ON P3Y 1B7  
Tel: (705) 692-5565  
Fax: (705) 692-1488

**Contact Person**

Margret Ignacy

**Partnerships**

- Board of Directors of Walden Play and Learn Co-operative

**Goals of the Project**

- During planning it was found that weekly calls to literacy agencies included parent requests for children's programs. It was the aim of the project to provide literacy experiences for children during the summer. Program aims include sharing with parents strategies that will promote reading at home and promoting the love of reading for children.

**Project Description**

With a target group of early readers, the Book Bandits Early Readers Club operates three mornings a week during the summer. Reading time is followed by a group project, then a variety of arts, crafts and games. Ap-

proximately thirty families participate on a weekly basis.

**A Book for Every Child Program****Address**

London Public Library  
305 Queens Avenue  
London, ON N6B 3L7  
Tel: (519) 661-5189

**Contact Person**

Delilah Deane-Cummings

**Partnerships**

- London Children's Library, London Free Press, London Literacy Network

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage children and families to read by providing them with books.

**Project Description**

During this annual campaign, books are distributed to children and families, via agencies serving children and families throughout London and the surrounding area.

Donations of new or nearly new books for babies through teens can be dropped off to the following locations, from November to mid-December:

- a) The Children's Library, 305 Queens Ave., London, ON and all other London Public Library locations, and
- b) The London Free Press, 369 York Street, London, ON.

**Books for Birthdays****Address**

Community Opportunities  
Development Association  
35 Dickson Street  
Cambridge, ON N1R 7A6  
Tel: (519) 623-9380

Fax: (519) 740-8540

**Contact Person**

Maxine Brake-Cheater

**Partnerships**

- Fundraising through community involvement - barbeques, saving food shopping tapes.

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage reading in families through book ownerships;
- To instill the value of print in children and families.

**Project Description**

This project makes quality books available to children from low-income families, for their own book collection. Book titles are recommended by local librarians, teachers, and bookstore owners. Parents register their children at one of fourteen locations in the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge areas. When the children's birthdays arrive, they each receive a free book. This program is available to all children, 0-16 years of age.

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***Family Learning Program***

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**Address**

Niagara Falls Secondary School  
3400 Epworth Circle  
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 1C6  
Tel: (905) 227-5551  
Fax: (905) 227-4731

**Contact Person**

Coordinator of Curriculum Services for the District School Board of Niagara, at the above address, or  
Adele Thomas, Faculty of Education, Brock University  
(905/688-5550, ext3937)

**Partnerships**

- Branscombe Family Foundation, Kiwanis Club of Niagara Falls,

- District School Board of Niagara, Faculty of Education of Brock University.

**Goals of the Project**

- To offer credit based instruction to parents returning to school;
- To develop parent-child literacy interactions through a variety of experiences in reading children's literature, writing and play activities with children;
- To provide a play-based learning environment for toddlers, with a focus on emergent literacy.

**Project Description**

Staffed by an adult educator and an early childhood teacher, a daily half-day program is offered each semester for up to 15 caregivers and their children. Caregivers enroll in two courses, Parenting and Domestic Foods.

An integrated family learning curriculum is built around weekly themes to maximize natural literacy opportunities for peer dialogue, reading, writing and parent-child interaction. There is a daily routine which includes circle time, adult sessions (parenting, reading, writing and nutrition classes) as well as parent and child together time. Adult learning assignments support family literacy goals and involve parent-made children's books, journal writing, running circle time, organizing weekly themes. Most young parents say that this program helped them to resume their educations, because it offered them a chance to be with their children.

A practitioner curriculum guide and parent resource materials are being developed in the next year.

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**Family Literacy Program of Kingston Literacy**

- a) *Reading and Parents Program*
  - b) *Family Literacy Tutor Training Workshop*
  - c) *Community Workshops*
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**Address**

Rideau Heights Public School  
77 MacCauley Street  
Kingston, ON K7K 2V8  
Tel: (613) 546-2462

**Contact Person**

Debbie Nesbitt-Munroe

**Partnerships**

- Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, National Literacy Secretariat, local community support

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide families with resources, information and support for their children's emergent literacy development;
- To create an awareness about both emergent literacy and the community family literacy programs.

**Project Description*****Reading and Parents Program (RAPP):***

The Reading and Parent Program (developed in 1990) provides resources and information about emergent literacy for parents and their children. The RAPP pack is a folder which includes a quality children's book, reading and language hints, poems, crafts, and activities for children. The RAPP pack can be introduced and loaned to parents in many ways: on a one-to-one basis with parents who are learners, in small groups, or in parent/tot drop-in situations.

Each RAPP pack contains an evaluation sheet which the parent

and/or tutor can fill out after using the pack. This provides information about what participants like about the books, what they would like in the future and what particularly works with their children.

The RAPP packs have been available to learning pairs at Kingston Literacy's Read-Write Centres since 1990. The RAPP program has been available at other locations including; a District Catholic School Board # 55 adult education program called the Open Book Project, Better Beginnings for Kingston Children, the District School Board # 27 program called the Parent Child Education Program, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children. This year we are starting a group in Rideau Heights Public School for the parents of Kindergarten children.

Parental feedback regarding the packs is very positive; children love them and really look forward to getting them. Parents have said that they believe their children are doing better in school because of the RAPP packs. Many parents also say that they read more to their children. Informal evaluation, anecdotal reports and numbers of participants are recorded.

Currently a "Family Literacy Group" program for parents is being developed, which will involve curriculum based outcomes on how children learn, meshed with the Learning Outcomes from the Ministry of Education and Training in Ontario.

Ten RAPP packs (excluding the book) have been reformatted and are available to other programs. These cost \$5.00 each and include: reading and language hints, poetry, craft plans and activities for younger and

older children. A program can receive the whole pack, including the book, for \$20.00.

*Family Literacy Tutor Training Workshops:*

A family literacy tutor training workshop is provided for one-to-one tutors who want to do family literacy with students.

Kingston Literacy is a long standing program, having been in service for the past twenty years. They have extensive expertise in the area of tutor training. That, coupled with their experience in family literacy, has led them to develop a "Parent/Tutor Volunteer in the Schools" training package. This is done on a fee for service basis and has been very well received at seven area elementary schools.

Many parents call with questions and concerns about their children's reading skill. This year a training package is being developed for parents who want to learn how to help their children learn. This will be provided on a fee for service basis.

Each training session has an evaluation form. Information gathered is used to guide planning for subsequent trainings or workshops.

*Community Workshops:*

It is the belief of Kingston Literacy that the whole community needs to become aware of emergent literacy and how to augment or promote the development of these skills in children. To this end, the Family Literacy coordinator is available to do talks and workshops in the community. These talks have taken place at infant/parent groups, parent evenings at an elementary school, for caregivers at child care resource centres and for staff and foster parents at a family and children's services agency.

These initiatives will help create a culture of literacy and community focus on this issue.

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**Foster Farm Family Literacy Program**

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**Address**

Foster Farm Community Centre  
1065 Ramsey Crescent  
Ottawa, ON K2B 8A1  
Tel: (613) 564-7444  
Fax: (613) 564-7447

**Contact Person**

Suzanne Aitkin

**Partnerships**

- Ottawa Board of Education,  
Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage family literacy activities for adult students enrolled in ESL and ABE programs at the centre;
- To encourage parent-child interaction through songs, storytelling and play;
- To promote everyday use of English for adults in ESL (Language instruction for New Canadians).

**Project Description**

At the Centre, childcare is provided for students in ABE and ESL classes. Parents and children are involved in a "read to me" program and a homework program three nights a week. At Foster Farm many activities are coordinated by volunteer parents from the housing development.

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**The Hanen Centre**

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**Address**

252 Bloor Street West  
Suite 3 - 390  
Toronto, ON M5S 1V5  
Tel: (416) 921-1073

Fax: (416) 921-1225  
Email: info@hanen.org

### Contact Person

Tom Cahn

### Partnerships

- Government of Ontario,
- Sale of Hanen Centre publications and training programs.

### Goals of the Project

- To provide indirect support for children with language disorders;
- To provide training for professional staff to conduct parent workshops.

### Project Description

The Centre has been in operation for almost 25 years, offering training and consultation in child development. Three training programs are offered all over the world: 1) training for speech pathologists who work with parents of preschoolers with severe language disorders; 2) adapted training for day care centre staff in working with children with language problems; 3) training for facilitators who work with parents based on the Hanen publication, *You Make A Difference*. This is a parenting guide which is well illustrated and written in simple language.

Resources: Videos and materials for parents and facilitators available for purchase, as well as training programs for facilitators.

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### *Help Your Child Get into Reading! A Family Literacy Manual*

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#### Address

Quinte Literacy Group  
185B Pinnacle Street  
Belleville, ON K8N 3A5  
Tel/Fax: (613) 962-6523

### Contact Person

Cathy Mates

### Partnerships

- Quinte Literacy Group, National Literacy Secretariat

### Goals of the Project

- To develop a comprehensive training manual;
- To assist Family Literacy coordinators in extending services to all parts of their catchment area;
- To offer the manual to parent/child groups to encourage and assist in the development of Family Literacy Programs in their communities;
- To increase the numbers of children entering school with reading readiness skills in place.

### Project Description

This manual was written as a “soup to nuts” guide for families, library boards, and play groups, who wish to know how to establish a successful Family Literacy Program in their community. Suggestions for funding sources, donations of space, community partnerships, participant recruitment/advertising, facilitator tips, reading tips for parents and more. In addition, twenty-five themes, including songs, rhymes, finger plays, book suggestions and craft ideas will make program delivery easier and less time-consuming for the volunteer.

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### *Helping Your Child To Learn*

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#### Address

Project READ Literacy Network  
Waterloo-Wellington  
20 Erb Street West  
11th Floor  
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2  
Tel: (519) 884-1318  
Fax: (519) 746-7835

Email: projread@golden.net

#### Contact Person

Anne Ramsay

#### Partnerships

- The Record Newspaper

#### Goals of the Project

- To teach parents/caregivers strategies that foster early literacy skills;
- To provide "Literacy Lunch Bags" to children 12 years of age and under.

#### Project Description

This program provides a two-hour workshop, approximately three times a year. "Literacy Lunch Bags" are distributed to parents/caregivers at each workshop. These bags contain a storybook, "Let's Play Literacy" booklet, a bookmark, a fridge magnet and a crayon.

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#### *Highland Association for Responsible Parenting (H.A.R.P.)*

#### Address

Muskoka - Parry Sound Health Unit  
P. O. Box 484  
Copeland Street  
Burk's Falls, ON P0A 1C0  
Tel: (705) 382-2018

#### Contact Person

Aira Chapman - H.A.R.P. Coordinator

#### Partnerships

- East Parry Sound Literacy Council, Children's Aid Society,
- Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit, Child and Family Centre,
- First Steps Child Centre, Community volunteers.

#### Goals of the Project

- To teach parents the knowledge and skills necessary to interact effectively with their children;
- To help children develop the prerequisite literacy, numeracy, language and social skills necessary to prosper at school.

#### Project Description

This program offers several parenting workshops, including one entitled "Talking, Reading and Enjoying Your Child - Through Play." Participants register in advance and indicate whether or not they need child care and/or transportation. There is no charge for these services.

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#### *Kids Read-in (and) One-on-One Support for Parents*

#### Address

Action Read  
20 Fountain Street West  
Guelph, ON N1H 1Y7  
Tel: (519) 836-2759  
Fax: (519) 836-7020

#### Contact Person

Anne Moore

#### Partnerships

- Guelph/Wellington United Way, Volunteer Support

#### Goals of the Project

- To support parents and children in the promotion of literacy within the family.

#### Project Description

There are two aspects to this program. The first is a weekly read-in for parents and their children. This includes a story time, a felt board or puppet play, songs, crafts, open playtime and a snack. Parents are expected to take part and lead activities when they feel comfortable. The second aspect to this program is the pro-

vision of one-on-one support for parents around family literacy issues.

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***LINC Program of the Peel Region (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada)***

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**Address**

3025 Hurontario Street  
Suite #405  
Mississauga, ON L5A 2H1  
Tel: (905) 306-0577  
Fax: (905) 306-1275

**Contact Person**

Effat Ghassemi

**Partnerships**

- Citizenship Immigration Canada

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide English skills to parents to facilitate adjustment in a new society;
- To provide support to children of the LINC students.

**Project Description**

The LINC program provides English language instruction to students from different countries. Parents and their preschoolers are given support and services to facilitate English literacy development, as well as social, cultural, economic and political integration into Canada. This program began in 1993 in Peel Region.

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***The Open Book***

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**Address**

St. Patrick School  
158 Patrick Street  
Kingston, ON  
Tel: (613) 544-8883

**Contact Person**

Robyn German, Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- District Catholic School Board (55), Ontario Ministry of Education and Training, National Literacy Secretariat.

**Goals of the Project**

- To incorporate family literacy concepts and activities within an adult learning framework;
- To promote a holistic learning experience for families in adult literacy and upgrading programs.

**Project Description**

Within the structure of an adult education curriculum components within Family Studies have focused on literacy topics related to families and parenting. While children attend preschool, parents are engaged in upgrading academic and job skills. At special times parents focus on parenting through the *Nobody's Perfect* program. As well, Kingston Literacy *Reading and Parents* book kits are available weekly for families in the program.

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***Parent Child Mother Goose Program***

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**Address**

1071 Bathhurst Street  
Toronto, ON M5R 3G8  
Tel: (416) 588-5234  
Fax: (416) 535-4270

**Contact Person**

Celia Lottridge

**Partnerships**

- Metro Toronto Community and Social Services, Toronto-Islington Rotary Club, Trillium Foundation, Community Foundation
- Funding has also come from fee for service in providing Mother Goose programs to other

agencies and from sale of publications.

### Goals of the Project

- To provide opportunities for parent-child interaction through rhymes and storytelling;
- To offer caregivers of young children the opportunity to meet other adults and share information about parenting;
- To provide training for facilitators of Mother Goose workshops.

### Project Description

*Parent Child Mother Goose* invites parents and children to attend a series of ten sessions for about one and a half hours a week. Activities centre on rhymes, songs, stories, as families sit in a circle with two group leaders. There is direct teaching of new rhymes and songs, chanting old favourites, listening to stories. At the end of the series participants receive a folder containing printed versions of rhymes and songs taught. Variations in the program include an infant program, Mother Goose for ESL groups, a two-to-four program and another for four year olds about to enter school.

Resources from the Mother Goose Program include:

Video: Parents, Kids and Mother Goose

Parent Child Mother Goose Program Teacher Training Manual

*The Moon Is Round*

*Bounce Me, Tickle Me: Lap Rhymes and Play Rhymes From Around the World*

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## ***Parent-Child Program and Adult Education of Frontenac Public School***

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### Address

Frontenac Public School, Room 22  
38 Cowdy St.  
Kingston, ON K7K 3V9  
Tel: (613) 542-7369, Ext. 388

### Contact Person

Mary Forbes

### Partnerships

- Frontenac County Board of Education, School of Continuing and Community Education.

### Goals of the Project

- To promote and encourage parenting skills and parent-child reading;
- To encourage adults to upgrade basic literacy/numeracy skills.

### Project Description

The Frontenac Public School program operates four days a week, with mornings devoted to a variety of parent-child activities for parents and children (up to age five). Afternoons provide individualized literacy and numeracy upgrading skills training, and is open to all adults in the community. Each morning session (from 9 a.m. to noon) focuses on parent-child play activities and story time, as well as weekly parenting discussion groups. Parents who participate in morning program may opt to enroll in adult education classes.

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## ***Parenting and Family Literacy Centres***

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### Address

Toronto Board of Education  
Parenting Program Office  
155 College Street  
Toronto, ON M5T 1P6

Tel: (416) 393-9621

Fax: (416) 397-3831

### **Contact Person**

Mary Gordon, Program  
Coordinator

### **Partnerships**

- Toronto District School Board

### **Goals of the Project**

- To improve academic outcomes for disadvantaged children through early education;
- To increase support for parents of children from infancy to age four;
- To provide instruction in child development, emergent literacy and numeracy for parents of young children.

### **Project Description**

Since 1981, when Centres first opened, they have used a drop-in format so families can attend when convenient. Most of the 34 current Centres are open mornings with a play based program based on circle time, physical education and story time as well as free play. A trained parent worker who coordinates Centre routines also offers support for families through community resources, a multilingual toy lending library, and providing parenting courses. A unique curriculum using easily accessible home materials has been developed for workshops on child development and early literacy/numeracy.

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### ***Playgroup (Nursery Rhyme & Fairy Tales Playgroups)***

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#### **Address**

Dryden Toy Library  
Resource Centre  
113 Albert Street  
Dryden, ON P8N 1J1  
Tel: (807) 223-7143

Fax: (807) 223-7145

### **Contact Person**

Barbara Avanthey

### **Partnerships**

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To develop social skills in children;
- To develop a love of stories and books;
- To develop creative and fine motor skills through art activities.

#### **Project Description**

Each group of parents and children meet once a week for eight weeks. One-hour sessions consist of free play, stories and songs, art activity and snack. Parents participate in play and circle activities.

Parents connect with other parents by making new friends. As well, they learn a repertoire of finger plays and songs to share with their children.

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### ***Preparing Employable Parents (PEP)***

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#### **Address**

Timmins Learning Centre  
94 Pine Street South  
Timmins, ON P4N 2K2

#### **Contact Person**

Deb Flynn

#### **Partnerships**

- Workplace Preparation Branch of Ministry of Education and Training.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To improve literacy and work skills of young parents;
- To ease young parents' transition to the workforce or to school.

#### **Project Description**

This program works with parents who have less than a Grade 12 diploma. Parents and their children at-

tend the centre, twice weekly, for two hours each session. The program teaches parents workplace skills, parenting skills and literacy skills. Parents spend a portion of each session with their child reading and making a craft.

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**Programs:**

- a) *Borrow-A-Book*
  - b) *Alpha and Bet Puppet Show*
  - c) *Story Reading - Family Literacy Week*
  - d) *Weekly Storytime - at the Centre*
- 

**Address**

Superior Children's Centre  
Resource Centre  
41 Algoma Street  
Wawa, ON P0S 1K0  
Tel: (705) 856-2178  
Fax: (705) 856-1874  
Email: scctoy@onlink.net

**Contact Person**

Carla Fairbrother

**Partnerships**

- Focus on Learning

**Goals of the Project**

- To foster a love of reading and books in families;
- To encourage parents to read to their children;
- To foster the love of books and stories in young children;
- To encourage parents/caregivers/teachers to include story telling as part of their activities;
- To connect seniors with children;

**Project Description**

- a) *Borrow-A-Book*  
Since September 1997, each Friday afternoon until June, one staff member from the Resource Centre reads stories to elementary school children. Books are sent home

with children to be read with their families.

- b) *Alpha and Bet Puppet Show*  
For the last nine years, during Family Literacy Week, two staff members from the Resource Centre write, develop and perform a puppet show about the pleasure and importance of reading. Several performances, during Family Literacy Week, are presented to children from local daycares and elementary schools, as well as to children from the Toy Library at the Centre.
- c) *Story Time during Family Literacy Week*  
Local seniors donate their reading skills and time to connect with children, by reading daily stories during Family Literacy Week. Resources Centre/Toy Library staff choose age-appropriate books, and coordinate this activity, which runs every morning during the last week in January (Family Literacy Week).
- d) *Centre's Weekly Storytime*  
Staff from the Centre/Toy Library provide weekly storytime, throughout the year, featuring puppet stories, felt board, cut-and-tell, draw-and-tell, as well as reading from story books. This activity is offered every Friday morning, at the Resource Centre/Toy Library.

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***Read to Me Program***

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**Address**

Ottawa Board of Education  
Continuing Education Centre  
515 Cambridge St. South  
Ottawa, ON K1S 4H9  
Tel: (613) 239-2656  
Fax: (613) 239-2429

**Contact Person**

Joyce White, Programs  
Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- The Ottawa Board of Education

**Goals of the Project**

- To support family literacy and learning together for ESL and ABE parents and their children;
- To provide intensive upgrading or ESL for parents.

**Project Description**

The “Read to Me” program is a component of the literacy and ESL programs for parents. “Read to Me” encourages the parents to read to their preschoolers by providing a shared reading time during the upgrading and ESL adult program. These programs are three or five hours a day, five days a week, with 26 adult classes throughout the Ottawa region. Programs include a childcare component.

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**Reading: A Parents’ Program  
(R.A.P.P.)**


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**Address**

180 Ontario Street  
Collingwood, ON L9Y 1M6  
Tel: (705) 444-2250  
Fax: (705) 445-6362  
Email: geolit@georgian.net

**Contact Person**

Roger Hannon

**Partnerships**

- Frontier College (Book Contributions), Children’s Aid Society (co-sponsors)
- All Saints’ Church (Location/Space)

**Goals of the Project**

- To provide a supportive environment in which children and parents learn together;

- To bring families together to enjoy books;
- To introduce parents to resources which will help them to bring reading into the home;
- To assist parents in recognizing the level of influence they have on their children’s lives;
- To assist parents in recognizing the importance of promoting good literacy practices in the home;
- To assist parents with low levels of literacy skills to read to their children;
- To encourage and assist parents to pursue further adult education opportunities.

**Project Description**

Led by a Georgian Literacy volunteer, a group of area mothers meet for one hour per week, for four weeks, in the All Saints’ Anglican Church in Collingwood. The weekly sessions are prepared and delivered in a relaxed, informative fashion. Group interaction and support are encouraged. Parents are given ideas to help their children learn to love books and reading. Each week, participants are given a number of new books to take home and keep for their enjoyment. A pilot project report which includes weekly session outlines and evaluation is available for \$10.

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**Reading Plus Program/Fresh Start**


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**Address**

Atikokan Public Library  
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0  
Tel: (807)597 - 1242

**Contact Person**

Sheila Ferguson, Fresh Start  
Facilitator

**Partnerships**

- Rainy River District Board of Education
- Ontario Ministry of Education and Training

**Goals of the Project**

- To assist young parents under the age of twenty-five to work toward grade twelve graduation.

**Project Description**

Since 1995 Fresh Start, together with the Atikokan High School, enrolls young parents unable to attend regular high school classes. A special credit course has been offered through the Independent Learning Centre. Parents meet weekly for study/work skills assistance and independent study, where transportation and child care costs are reimbursed. In addition to informal academic assistance, monthly presentations are offered on topics related to parenting, including family literacy and child development.

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***Reading with Your Child, ABC, 123: A Family Literacy Handbook***


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**Address**

Core Literacy  
 133 Frederick Street  
 Kitchener, ON N2H 2M1  
 Tel: (519) 743-6090  
 Fax: (519) 743-0474  
 Email: corelit@golden.net

**Contact Person**

Beth Mehring, Program  
 Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Community Action Program for Children

**Goals of the Project**

- To help parents/caregivers prepare their children to read and write;
- To teach parents/caregivers activities that will help their three to five year olds develop pre-literacy skills, such as shape recognition and drawing;
- To help children develop skills that will prepare them for reading, writing and math.

**Project Description*****Reading With Your Child:***

During an eight week program, parents/caregivers, and preschoolers meet once a week for an hour and a half. Each session is divided into two parts. For the first 45 minutes, parents discuss different topics, related to reading, writing, and math, in a group setting. During this time, children are looked after by volunteers. After a short break, parents and children play and work together at four activity centres, on a variety of activities. A feature activity, corresponding to the theme unit of the week, is set up for each session.

***ABC, 123: A Family Literacy Handbook:***

This publication is available for sale, at a cost of \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping and handling. This handbook outlines ten sessions for a family literacy program, including information for parents/caregivers, handouts and activity ideas.

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***Ready to Read - A Video***


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**Address**

London Investment in Education  
 Council  
 201 Queens Avenue  
 London, ON N6A 1J1  
 Tel: (519) 433-4540

Fax: (519) 433-6698

### Contact Person

Angela Rosati, Project  
Coordinator

### Partnerships

- Human Resources Development Canada, Cascade Chaplaincy
- Children's Library, Crouch Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- E.C.E. Resource Centre, Fanshawe College, KEM Murch Productions
- London Board of Education, Middlesex County Board of Education
- Roman Catholic School Board, London Bridge Child Care
- London Children's Connection, London Literacy Network
- Merrymount Children's Centre, University of Western Ontario, YWCA

### Goals of the Project

- To provide a useful tool for parents, educators, and other community workers, as they attempt to develop children's reading skills;
- To improve the likelihood that all children come to school equipped with the skills required to become readers;
- To maximize success at the earliest and most consequential attempts at learning to read.

### Project Description

*Ready to Read* was created for parents to focus on preschool development of skills essential to learning to read. The video synthesizes the most recent findings of early reading research with the experienced input of community experts, such as E.C.E. program directors, professors, social workers, child librarians, teachers and parents. The video emphasizes the promotion of reading skills in

ways that are fun, natural, and meaningful for the child. Plans for distribution across Canada, the U.S., and around the world are under way.

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### *Reading Routes Family Literacy*

#### Address

25 Ontario Street  
P. O. Box 375  
Napanee, ON K7B 3M4  
Tel: (613) 354-5363  
Fax: (613) 354-5930

#### Contact Person

Laurie DesLauriers

#### Partnerships

- The Lawson Foundation

#### Goals of the Project

- To encourage cognitive development in preschool age children through the use of books and language activities.

#### Project Description

Reading Routes received a two-year grant from the Lawson Foundation in December of 1997 to begin this family literacy program. Twice a month, an average of seventy-four children and their families have opportunities to be read to, and to develop language and cognitive skills.

This Reading and Parent Program (RAPP) provides resources and information about emergent literacy to parents and children. The RAPP pack is a folder which contains a quality children's book, reading and language hints, poems, crafts, and activities for children. The RAPP pack can be introduced and loaned to parents in many ways: on a one-to-one basis with parents who are learners, in small groups, or in parent/tot drop-in situations.

Each RAPP pack contains an evaluation sheet which the parent

and/or tutor can fill out after using the pack. This provides information about what participants like about the books, what they would like in the future and what particularly works with their children.

The program can be accessed through one of two ways:

- a) Parents who are part of the adult literacy program first practice reading books and doing crafts and cognitive activities with their tutors. Then they take the RAPP packs home and share the contents with their children; or
- b) Adults who are registered in working groups for families who have neither a lot of resources nor experience with children/child development. The Reading Routes literacy coordinator delivers information regarding the program to the groups, where parents can access them.

Staff for this program consists of one full time employee, whose job is to coordinate and deliver the RAPP packs and other services, and one office assistant who helps to develop the RAPP packs.

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### *Rockabye and Read*

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#### **Address**

Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council  
45 King Street West, Box 1119  
Hagersville, ON N0A 1H0  
Tel: (905) 768-1565  
Fax: (905) 768-1993  
Email: hgvlit@kwic.com

#### **Contact Person**

Leah Morris

#### **Partnerships**

- Council for Exceptional Children, Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To encourage parents to begin reading to their children right after birth;
- To develop a love of reading in the next generation.

#### **Project Description**

Parents of all newborns, born at the West Haldimand War Memorial Hospital and at the Norfolk General Hospital, receive an information kit which includes: information on reading, a toy, a purchased book, and a book written by a local high school student.

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### *Take-A-Book/Give-A-Book*

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#### **Address**

Organization for Literacy in Lambton  
P.O. Box 374  
Sarnia, On N7T 7J2  
Tel: (519)332 - 4876  
FAX: (519)332 - 0916

#### **Contact Person**

Jo-Ann Schultz, Literacy Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Community donations

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To raise family awareness of the importance of literacy learning;
- To ensure that no child in Sarnia-Lambton is without a new book on Christmas morning.

#### **Project Description**

Used books are collected from the community and put into attractive boxes. These are taken to Health Units, Children's Aid Societies, Salvation Army, the Women's Interval Home and the Children's Rotary Centre. Children choose and *Take-A-Book* which is free.

*Give-A-Book* - Children in families receive a free new book with the Christmas distribution of food hampers.

Please note Lambton Literacy also provides a homework program and a reading buddies program in housing units, where children's libraries have also been developed. Finally, a Books for Babies program operates in St. Joseph's Hospital and Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

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### **Youth Program**

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#### **Address**

Walkerton and District Literacy  
Council  
120 Yonge Street South  
Suite #2  
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0  
Tel: (519) 881-3858  
Fax: (519) 881-4037  
Email: wdlic@bmts.com

#### **Contact Person**

Alison Rowe

#### **Partnerships**

- Harold Crabtree Foundation, Jesse Latte Foundation
- Douglas Chambers and the Stonyground Institute, Local Service Clubs

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase confidence in school-aged children who are falling behind in school;
- To prevent long-term literacy problems through family involvement;
- To keep children positive about school by giving them success;

- To encourage life-long learning.

#### **Project Description**

This program offers one-on-one tutoring for school-age children in the Saugeen area. Workshops for parents are also offered, with a view to helping children with school work. This program operates year-round when funding allows. The program is supported with fundraising and private donations.

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### **Youth Training Project**

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#### **Address**

Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy  
Council  
45 King Street West, Box 1119  
Hagersville, ON N0A 1H0  
Tel: (905) 768-1505  
Fax: (905) 768-1993  
Email: hgvlit@kwic.com

#### **Contact Person**

Leah Morris

#### **Partnerships**

- Council for Exceptional Children, Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase awareness of children's literacy needs in high school students;
- To give youth the skills needed to be better parents.

#### **Project Description**

High school students, with and without children, are taught the skills necessary to teach others how to read. Participants are taught the ways for creating a literacy oriented environment.





## Family Literacy Projects in Prince Edward Island

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### *Kids R First Family Resource Centre*

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#### **Address**

75 Central Street  
Summerside, PEI C1N 3L2  
Tel: (902) 436-1348  
Fax: (902) 888-3954  
Email: [epccinc@atcon.com](mailto:epccinc@atcon.com)

#### **Contact Person**

Laura Quinn - Primary  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Health Canada

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote the whole healthy development of children aged birth to six by strengthening and supporting East Prince families.

#### **Project Description**

Kids R First is a grass roots volunteer supported organization which offers a variety of programs and services free of charge as follows:

- Toy Lending Library
- Clothing Exchange
- Resource Lending Library
- Parent support groups, where parents help parents
- Active Parenting Today program
- Drop-In Play Groups which include circle time and shared reading

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### *Kids West Inc.*

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#### **Address**

Old Stone Station  
14 Railway Street  
P. O. Box 369  
Alberton, PEI C0B 1B0

Tel: (800) 778-3444

Fax: (902) 853-4066

Email: [kidswest@atcon.com](mailto:kidswest@atcon.com)

#### **Contact Person**

Sterling Carruthers, Program  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Health Canada - Community Action Program for Children

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide support, resources, training and information for families with children between the ages of birth to six.

#### **Project Description**

Kids West offers a wide range of family focused programs and services. Programs rely on the hard work of volunteer parents, staff, and individuals in the communities of the West Prince region. Activities of Kids West include:

- Kids West Tabletalk Newsletter about events and activities of interest to families.
- Toy/Resource Lending Library makes toys, books, and other items available to families.
- Parent Resources and Resource Room houses books, cassettes, pamphlets, and magazines that are available to take home on loan or to view in a comfortable setting at the Kids West Center.
- Parent Training Literacy workshops, parenting courses and other topic presentations available free of charge.
- Parent Nutrition Project: volunteer support moms work with Healthy Baby Clubs and

Community Kitchens, that are established with groups of 3-10 people who cook together for their families to provide low cost nutritious meals.

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### *Prince Edward Island Family Literacy Advisory Committee*

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#### **Address**

Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2000  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 368-6286  
Fax: (902) 368-6144  
Email: bemaconnutt@gov.pe.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Barbara Macnutt, Special Projects  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- PEI Literacy Alliance, PEI Department of Education
- Community Organizations across the province of PEI, including Laubach Councils, Learner Associations, School Boards, Family Resource Centres and Libraries

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To increase communities'/society's understanding of the meaning and contribution of family literacy;
- To create an environment where it is safe to say you have a problem with reading;
- To ensure family literacy is an inclusive term;

- To celebrate everyone's family literacy success;
- To promote reading as fun, pleasurable and entertaining;
- To provide fun literacy activities for families;
- To advocate government support for standardized kindergarten for all children.

#### **Project Description**

In an effort to develop a long-range plan for family literacy in PEI, the Ad Hoc Family Literacy Committee was formed. The PEI Literacy Alliance offered input as to the existing programs that supported family literacy and the ideas that local people held regarding family literacy.

After a series of meetings in five communities in November and a two-day consultation in January, a plan for family literacy in PEI is beginning to emerge. There were two full-days of workshops and planning meetings held, and participants learned about family literacy, about programs and resources available, and they had the opportunity to contribute their ideas to a strategic plan for family literacy, including vision, values, goals and objectives, and action plans. To date key elements of the strategic plan have been identified. A one year operational plan is nearly complete, so that the community does not have to wait for action as the PEI Family Literacy Advisory Committee refines and completes the strategic plan.



## Family Literacy Projects in Quebec

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### *The Centre for Literacy*

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#### **Address**

3040 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1A4  
Tel: (514) 931-8731, ext. 1415  
Fax: (514) 531-5181  
Email: literacycntr@  
dawsoncollege.ca/litcent/  
Webpage: www.nald.ca/litcent/

#### **Contact Person**

Linda Shohet

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Dawson College (M & I)

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote wider understanding and better practice in literacy;
- To make materials available to support these objectives.

#### **Project Description**

The Centre for Literacy is a resource and training centre that provides materials, training, and information services to practitioners in schools, the workplace, and the community. It has been a public centre since 1989 and currently has a collection of more than 6000 literacy items, including books, audio-visual materials, and computer software. Currently, family literacy is a priority for acquisition. A new addition, "Travelling Trunk," can circulate in remote regions. The Centre offers workshops and seminars as well. Finally, the Centre publishes a newsletter, "Literacy Across the Curriculum" and frequently reports on family literacy. Resources for families are in demand and workshops are heavily regis-

tered. Data are kept on circulation and attendance.

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- a) Community Reading Circles*
  - b) Summer Mailbag*
  - c) Reading Tips*
  - d) Family Literacy Workshops*
  - e) Annual Family Literacy Day*
- 

#### **Address**

Literacy Unit  
Eastern Quebec Regional School Board  
1270 Chemin Sainte-Foy  
Suite 2117  
Quebec City, PQ G1S 2M4  
Tel: (418) 658-8298  
Fax: (418) 658-2690

#### **Contact Person**

Ann M. Gauvin

#### **Partnerships**

- Ministry of Education Quebec, National Literacy Secretariat
- Local schools; local bookstores; funds from PGI Golf Tournament
- Weekly Chronicle Telegraph Newspaper

#### **Goals of the Project**

Community Reading Circles:

- To provide a fun forum for children one Saturday per month to promote the joy of reading;
- To increase parents' awareness of the importance of reading aloud daily to their children.
- Summer Mailbag;
- To keep children involved in reading and writing during the summer months;

- To involve parents in the fun of reading and writing with their children.
- Reading Tips:
- To give ideas to parents regarding reading activities other than story book reading.

#### Family Literacy Workshop:

- To sensitize “at risk” students who are parents to the issues around reading, and the importance of it.
- Annual Family Literacy Day:
- To bring families together to share in a variety of literacy experiences.

### Project Description

#### *Community Reading Circles:*

The Reading Circles program has been in existence for more than ten years. Approximately 75-100 children attend, representing seven English language schools (grades K-4). The monthly reading circles include activities such as story reading/telling, theme crafts, community guest speakers, and refreshments. In Fall 1998, a handbook will be produced entitled, “Tips for Parents on Reading Activities,” and the resident storyteller will produce an original Christmas story.

#### *Summer Mailbox:*

Every two weeks, from the end of June to mid-August, children receive an envelope by mail, which contains a new book to read, plus activities to be carried out either alone or with the assistance of parents. Projects and book selection are done by the Literacy Coordinator in collaboration with the Language Arts consultant, the Kindergarten teacher, and the owner of the local English school board.

#### *Reading Tips:*

Volunteers with the literacy council prepare weekly ‘reading tips’ for parents, which are published weekly

in the local newspaper. Tips include concrete suggestions and/or activities regarding reading and writing with children.

#### *Family Literacy Workshop:*

These workshops are geared to students attending the Adult Education Centre but other adults may join. The workshops teach parents strategies for promoting their children’s emerging literacy. Workshop issues include: learning about family literacy; learning about how children learn to read; learning about the importance of reading to children; making reading fun; helping children with school; and choosing reading material for children.

#### *Annual Family Literacy Day:*

This has been held annually for the past four years. It has become an important community event, with activities such as guest speakers, kids’ crafts, parental workshops, drama, and a Frontier Reading Tent. This is seen as an opportunity to invite “outsiders” who will help promote the importance of reading in families.

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### *Creating a Learning Culture in the Home*

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#### **Address**

Western Quebec Literacy Council  
P.O. Box 266  
Shawville, PQ J0X 2Y0  
Tel/Fax: (819) 647-3112  
Email: cj439@freenet.carleton.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Marilee DeLombard

#### **Partnerships**

- Laubach Literacy of Canada

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To enrich literacy levels in children’s homes;

- To support parents in their efforts to encourage their children to enjoy reading and writing.

### **Project Description**

This project offers a series of workshops and is run largely with the help of volunteers who are trained by Laubach Literacy of Canada. The Literacy Council advertises the project and organizes the workshops for small groups in rural and urban communities in the West Quebec region. The three workshops are as follows:

- Access to Reading helps caregivers understand how children learn to read and provides methods to help children experience success in reading. Activities include finger-plays, action rhymes, reading aloud, and making fold-a-books.
- Reading to Write - Writing to Read looks at how children learn to write and provides caregivers with practical ideas and activities to support and encourage children's writing. Activities include reading/writing games and writing a family story.
- Building Self-Esteem Through Communication looks at how children develop healthy self-esteem and explores how parents can help by encouraging positive communication patterns.

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### ***Family Literacy Activities***

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#### **Address**

St. Francis Literacy Council  
2365 Galt Street West  
Sherbrooke, PQ J1K 1L1  
Tel: (819) 346-7009  
Fax: (819) 566-2658  
Email: atkin@interlinks.qc.ca

#### **Contact Person**

Leila Atkin, Coordinator

### **Partnerships**

- Eastern Township School Board, Cab Redicker Centre, Espace Estrie

### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide one-on-one literacy and private tutoring to adults who wish to improve their reading, writing and math skills;
- To encourage families to read at home;
- To promote a democratic literacy council, by encouraging families, students and tutors to be involved in decision-making in the Council.

### **Project Description**

The St. Francis Literacy Council provides one-on-one tutoring to adults for literacy upgrading. As well, the Council encourages parents to read to their children, and provides literacy kits to families in order to promote this goal. The kits consist of children's books, tapes, information pamphlets, scissors, crayons, and a T-shirt that says "Read to Me" on the front. The Council encourages families to join the council, and to participate actively in council meetings. Children can often be seen reading aloud to one another or with parents while the families attend council meetings.

In the past, the Council developed a Parents as Partners as Learners program, in collaboration with the local elementary schools. Children chose books presented by teachers, took the books home, read them with their parents, and then parents would sign the log stating that they had read with their children. Books would be exchanged the next day at school. If parents were found to be experiencing literacy difficulties, a literacy council member would encourage them to upgrade their skills. This

program met with a great deal of success. Although the St. Francis Literacy Council no longer provides the program, it continues on in the schools via the elementary teachers. Resources are available from the Literacy Council in the form of a video and instruction booklets on the Parents as Learners as Partners program.

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### ***Family Literacy Project***

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#### **Address**

South Shore Reading Council  
279 Hubert, Apt. 4  
Greenfield Park, PQ J4V 1R9  
Tel: (514) 671-4375  
Fax: (514) 671-1029

#### **Contact Person**

Nina Nichols

#### **Partnerships**

- South Shore Reading Council, Local Libraries, Local School District

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To train more tutors in family literacy;
- To reach children, youth and adults in need of learning to read, write, and do basic math in English;
- To encourage the involvement of all family members;
- To lower the illiteracy rate in the South Shore area;
- To create more public awareness of the problem of illiteracy.

#### **Project Description**

This project involves a training session in the Fall, along with information evenings for parents and adult students. Referrals are received from elementary and secondary school teachers. The aim is to reach all English speaking children, youth, and adults who want to learn or to up-

grade their reading, writing, basic math and computer skills. Depending upon the response, information, tutoring and workshop sessions will be held at the Council office or else a larger hall can be used at the South Shore Volunteer Centre.

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### ***Family Literacy Stand at Morin Heights School***

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#### **Address**

Laurentian Literacy Council  
548 Principale  
Lachute, PQ J8H 3X9  
Tel: (514) 562-3719

#### **Contact Person**

Danielle Hay

#### **Partnerships**

- Initiatives Fédérales Provinciales Conjointes en matière d'Alphabétisation
- Morin Heights Elementary School

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To sensitize parents and other interested individuals to the importance of family literacy programs.

#### **Project Description**

A yearly family event offered by the Laurentian Literacy Council is a display table that is set up at the annual bazaar that is held by Morin Heights Elementary School in Lachute Quebec. The display table holds brochures and pamphlets which tell about the literacy council, as well as bookmarkers and books with which the council is currently working in their family literacy programs. The display table draws considerable attention and several people have indicated interest in the activities of the literacy council.

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### ***Family Literacy Workshops***

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**Address**

RECLAIM  
 (The Reading Council for  
 Literacy Advance in Montreal)  
 880 Cardinal, Room 208  
 Ville St. Laurent, Quebec  
 H4L 3E2  
 Tel: (514) 747-3451  
 Fax: (514) 747-3583

**Contact Person**

Ricki Goldstein

**Partnerships**

- Double Hook Bookstore, The Gazette, Johnson & Johnson
- Laubach Literacy of Canada, National Literacy Secretariat
- The Rotary Club of Montreal, Oxford University Press
- Westward Rotary Club

**Goals of the Project**

- To promote literacy in the home and to encourage children to read for both pleasure and information;
- To increase awareness of the importance of reading to children;
- To encourage parents and grandparents to read to children.

**Project Description**

RECLAIM offers four family literacy initiatives in Montreal. The first is called *Access to Reading*. It offers parents an understanding of how their children learn to read, and it provides strategies for helping children to experience reading success. A second workshop, *Reading to Write, Writing to Read*, looks at how children learn to write and provides parents with ideas and activities to support and encourage their children's writing. A third initiative offered by RECLAIM is a *Book Drive* for underprivileged children, where quality children's literature is collected and distributed to children in inner city

schools. Finally, the *Reading Circles* program allows parents and children the opportunity to engage in reading activities. Parents learn reading strategies, and then they read with their children in a large reading circle.

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### ***Family Literacy Workshops and a Family Literacy Kit***

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**Address**

Literacy Unlimited  
 145 Cartier Avenue  
 Point Claire, Quebec H9S 4R9  
 Tel: (514) 694-0007  
 Fax: (514) 694-3590

**Contact Person**

Kate Strickland, Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Proposed partners include local schools and Lakeshore General Hospital

**Goals of the Project**

- To be available as a community contact with expertise in family literacy;
- To work in partnership with educational and health institutions to develop family literacy programs.

**Project Description**

To date, Literacy Unlimited has plans to offer workshops to train those interested in developing family literacy programs of their own. As well, workshops will be offered to those parents who are currently being served as adult literacy students by Literacy Unlimited. Plans are underway for the development of a family literacy kit, which will be geared to Literacy Unlimited parents and to parents who are working on literacy issues with their children. The kit will be housed at Literacy Unlimited, and will be loaned to inter-

ested parents and community members.

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### *Learning With My Child*

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#### **Address**

Sault-Saint Louis School Board  
Adult Education Services  
380 Provost Street  
Lachine, PQ H8S 1L7  
Tel: (514) 595-2038  
Fax: (514) 595-2065

#### **Contact Person**

Gillian de Vito, Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Sault-Saint Louis School Board and community volunteers, ABC Canada

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote parental involvement in children's school learning;
- To provide additional opportunity for children to develop reading skills;
- To develop a love of reading and a positive attitude toward school.

#### **Project Description**

*Learning With My Child* is a tutoring program in all elementary schools of the Sault-Saint Louis Board. Families and tutors are matched and tutors visit homes for tutoring sessions of about 45 minutes. All tutors receive prior training, after being interviewed for suitability and there is ongoing monitoring of volunteers by the Volunteer Program Coordinator. On a yearly basis, approximately 60 families have participated in the program.

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### *Literacy in the Information Age – An Information Kit*

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#### **Address**

Quebec Home and School Federation

3285 Cavendish Blvd.  
Suite #562  
Montreal, PQ H4B 2L9  
Tel: (514) 481-5619  
Fax: (514) 481-5610  
Email: qfhsa@total.net

#### **Contact Person**

Marion Daigle

#### **Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, John Abbott College, ABC Canada Literacy Foundation.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To promote awareness of the requirements for literacy in the information age;
- To mobilize school and community volunteer resources, in order to advocate and deliver programs for prevention and remediation of illiteracy;
- To work in partnership with all sectors of the community to promote literacy;
- To inform parents about issues related to print, media, computer literacy and more;
- To help parents help their children to develop the necessary skills to be able to succeed in today's world.

#### **Project Description**

This resource book was designed as a literacy prevention project in 1989 by the Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) and was distributed across Canada through local Home and School Associations.

*Literacy in the Information Age* offers advice on homework, reading, math, general parenting and educational issues in easy-to-understand language. It is available in French and English for \$30.00 (includes shipping and handling). Orders may be placed at the above address for Quebec.

***Montreal Mother Goose Project*****Address**

Montreal Children's Library  
 1200 Atwater Avenue  
 Montreal, PQ H3Z 1X4  
 Tel: (514) 931-2304  
 Fax: (514) 935-1960

**Contact Person**

Molly Walsh, Program  
 Co-ordinator

**Partnerships**

- Montreal Children's Library, The Women's YWCA of Montreal

**Goals of the Project**

- To reach isolated parents (single mothers, newly arrived immigrants, teenage mothers, caregiver dads, etc.) and encourage them to promote literacy learning with their infants through language, story and song.

**Project Description**

This project is modeled on the Toronto Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. This program runs for ten-week sessions at the Women's YWCA in downtown Montreal. A social time with snacks precedes the one hour program. The first half hour is devoted to repeating new rhymes and actions introduced by the leaders. This is followed by a twenty minute story session which is aimed at helping parents/caregivers practice storytelling skills. Circle games and songs round out the program. Parents/caregivers and babies are actively involved in a process which aims to teach mothers the fun to be had with the rhythms of language, as well as constructive ways to deal with fussy moments.

***Supporting Parents as the Child's First and Most Important Teachers*****Address**

Yamaska Literacy Council  
 418 Radisson  
 Cowansville, PQ J2K 3C3  
 Tel: (450) 263-7503  
 Fax: (450) 263-7209

**Contact Person**

Donna Ross, Literacy Project  
 Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- Heroes' Memorial School, Cowansville PQ
- Knowlton Academy, Knowlton PQ (Eastern Townships School Board)

**Goals of the Project**

- To give parents a chance to observe what and how their child is learning at school and to be given ways to support that learning at home;
- To give parents a way to meet resource people that are available to them and their children, in a non-threatening environment;
- To give parents a time for sharing with each other.

**Project Description**

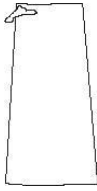
The program involves parents of Kindergarten children who are invited several times a year to visit the school and to participate with their child in regular classroom activities. On these days, workshops are also held on topics of interest to the parents. These workshops are determined through a needs assessment. Recent examples included: Reading With My child, Recognizing Signs of Stress in Children, The School's Peace Program, and Testing and Speech Problems.

The program is run by an interdisciplinary team including the school principal, the Kindergarten teachers, an adult literacy animator, school resource teacher and may include others such as local public health workers and/or school psychologists.

The project is school-based with participation from the community and is now self-sustaining, with the schools providing space, staff replacement costs, refreshments for the parents, and daycare. The literacy council contributes the time of the literacy animator.

This program is in its fifth year at Knowlton Academy and in its third year at Heroes' Memorial. Parents have reported that the program has helped them to feel more comfortable approaching school staff and administrators. The school has reported feeling that this program has helped to bring home and school closer together. Parents particularly appreciate meeting teachers and resource people informally and sharing experiences and ideas with other parents.

A written report by Donna Ross and Gerda Duncan, covering the years 1994-96, is available through the Yamaska Literacy Council for a nominal charge.



## Family Literacy Projects in Saskatchewan

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### *Circle Project Inc.*

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#### **Address**

1102 - 8th Avenue  
Regina, SK S4R 1C9  
Tel: (306) 347-7515  
Fax: (306) 347-7519

#### **Contact Person**

Maynard Quewezance

#### **Partnerships**

- Regina Archdiocese, Saskatchewan Social Services
- City of Regina, Central Lions Club, United Way

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To eradicate illiteracy within the community;
- To enhance the self-empowerment of the individuals who enter the program.

#### **Project Description**

The Circle Project offers literacy and parenting programs aimed primarily at the Aboriginal urban population. The organization uses traditional native culture and teachings as a framework within which to offer its programs, and incorporates relevant and compatible contemporary skills necessary for strong families and communities.

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### *Come Read With Me - Facilitator Training*

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#### **Address**

Saskatchewan Literacy Network  
202-626 Broadway Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1A9  
Tel: (306) 651-7288  
Toll Free: 1-888-511-2111  
Fax: (306) 651-7287  
Email: [saskliteracy@sk.literacy.ca](mailto:saskliteracy@sk.literacy.ca)

#### **Learning Centre**

1106 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V6  
Tel: (306) 953-5526  
Fax: (306) 953-5355  
Email: [family.lit.jtg@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:family.lit.jtg@sk.sympatico.ca)

#### **Contact Person**

Saskatchewan Literacy Network:  
Lisa erickson, Executive Director  
Learning Centre:  
Janice Thomas Gervais, Family Literacy Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Saskatchewan Institutes of Applied Science and Technology
- National Literacy Secretariat, Credit Unions of Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Literacy Network Members

#### **Goals of the Project**

##### *Facilitator Training:*

- To train family literacy facilitators in a direct adult model that accentuates empowering parents and uses books as tools for literacy activities and communication.

##### *Come Read With Me - family literacy project goals:*

- To help parents recognize their important and influential role as their children's first teachers;
- To encourage reading as a fun and valued activity for both parents and children;

- To aid parents in helping their children develop pre-reading, and reading skills;
- To give parents opportunities to identify their knowledge and skills, to learn new skills, and to put new skills into practice;
- To help parents with low literacy skills read to their children;
- To encourage parents to pursue further adult education opportunities.

### Project Description

Since 1993, the Saskatchewan Literacy Network has provided training for group facilitators for the Come Read With Me program. Facilitators include adult educators, teachers, parents, community school coordinators, Headstart teachers, social workers, volunteers, librarians and community service workers. Facilitators receive training in the following areas: issues in family literacy, steps in starting a program, reaching "hard to reach" parents, overcoming potential problems in leading groups, and empowering parents. Approximately 300 people have been trained since 1993 and Come Read With Me programs have been implemented throughout the province.

Training is three days long, and includes a package of resource materials. It is offered for groups of 10-14 upon request. Certificates of participation are awarded upon completion. The cost to attend the training sessions is \$200.00, or a subsidized rate of \$100.00 for non-profit organizations.

The Come Read With Me program has produced a video, "Come Read With Me", which sells for ten dollars (\$10.00), as well as a training package for participants.

Local Area "Come Read With Me" projects:

#### Prince Albert Community:

*The Prince Albert Family Reading group* has been active over the past 4 years and continues to offer Come Read With Me family reading sessions throughout the community. Contact: Lynne Mourot, Regional Family Literacy Coordinator; Tel: (306) 763-6603.

*The Pinegrove Correctional Centre for Women* has a Come Read With Me family reading component in their adult literacy class. Contact: LaVera Schiele; Tel: (306) 953-3132.

#### Rural Regions:

*Carlton Trail Regional College* in Humboldt has a First Nations/Metis Come Read With Me family literacy project that spans three reserves. Contacts: Donna Heselwood or Terrie Kinar; Tel: (306) 682-2623.

*Service francosaskois d'éducation des adultes* has offered facilitator training and public awareness sessions as follow up to their direct adult program, L'ABC de la famille. Contact: Evelyn Gaudet; Tel: (306) 423-6236.

*LaLoche Preschool* teacher David Ruelling has offered parent and child sessions to preschool clients. Contact: David Ruelling; Tel: (306) 822-2222.

*La Ronge Friendship Centre Teen Parent Worker* has been involved in parenting sessions which incorporate Come Read With Me family literacy activities. Contact: Mary-Ann Baxter; Tel: (306) 425-3789.

#### Regina, SK:

*Regina Public Library* has several sites where they have offered Come Read With Me family literacy programs. Contacts: Margaret Dodson or Gail Douglas; Tel: (306) 777-6067.

*Al Ritchie Family Wellness Centre* has been offering Family Fun Reading Programs, based on the Come Read With Me model, for local parents. Contact: Rob Gates; Tel: (306) 525-4989.

#### **Saskatoon, SK:**

*Frontier College* coordinator Karen Farmer has facilitated Come Read With Me sessions as well as other initiatives provincially. Contact: Karen Farmer; Tel: (306) 652-1049.

*READ Saskatoon* has had a special program this past year called Literacy for Communities, and has focused on gathering and distributing information about family literacy. Contact: Ruth Vandekamp; Tel: (306) 652-5448.

*Come Read With Me Association of Saskatoon* has ongoing programs in several schools. Contact: Cathy Sieben; Tel: (306) 664-2362.

*Nurturing With Rhymes* is a new initiative through a family support centre and is based on the Mother Goose model. Contact: Sharon Baby; Tel: (306) 242-6036.

Two examples of Come Read With Me programming follow in order to demonstrate the range of settings for which Come Read With Me has been adapted.

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### ***Come Read With Me***

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#### **Address**

St. John Elementary School  
Family Support Centre  
Saskatoon, SK  
Fax: (306) 668-7873

#### **Contact Person**

Cathy Sieben

#### **Partnerships**

- Saskatoon Catholic School Board, Saskatoon Family and Children's Services,

- Knights of Columbus, St. John Bosco League, Bishop J. Mahoney Institute of the Family, National Literacy Secretariat, and community volunteers.

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide a literature rich environment for caregivers and children;
- To provide opportunities for positive parent-child interaction;
- To offer a literacy component as part of an ongoing parent support program.

#### **Project Description**

Come Read With Me at St. John's operates throughout the school year for parents of preschoolers. The Centre provides a parent-child play and parenting program once a week for two hours. In the Come Read With Me component (half hour) parents and children read books, sing songs, and do follow crafts related to the book. Book lending is a part of the program.

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### ***Come Read With Me and Nobody's Perfect***

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#### **Address**

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology,  
Wascana Campus  
P. O. Box 556  
Regina, SK S4P 3A3  
Tel: (306) 787-1354  
Fax: (306) 787-5104

#### **Contact Person**

Roberta Duncan, Program Head  
Transition to Work/Community

#### **Partnerships**

- Saskatchewan Literacy Network, SIAST Wascana Campus
- Financial assistance has been and continues to be provided by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network,

as well as the Credit Union Central and a group of retired postal workers (the Heritage Club).

### Goals of the Project

- To provide support and to enhance parenting skills of parents who live in the community, or who are attending the literacy programs at SIAST Wascana Campus, Wetmore Centre;
- To increase awareness of the importance of reading to and with children. It is hoped that children will learn, through their parents, the value of reading and education;
- To develop in children and families an appreciation of books and reading.

### Project Description

Several staff members (approximately 25%) have received training as facilitators of Come Read With Me groups, and one instructor has been certified as facilitator trainers. Over the past year a training session for facilitators was held at SIAST Wascana Campus, which is the site of basic literacy training for adults. In addition, two groups of parents participated in the Come Read With Me weekly sessions. Each session was two hours per day over a four week period. Childcare was provided during the day so parents could participate. Information about Come Read With Me training may be obtained by phoning the Saskatchewan Literacy Network at (306) 653-7368 or (306) 653-7178.

Beginning in January, 1998 "Nobody's Perfect" support groups were offered at our literacy centre. This program is offered in collaboration with the Regina Health District and

facilitated by the public health nurse responsible for this area.

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### *Families Reading Together*

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#### Address

Parkland Regional College  
Literacy Program  
72 Melrose Avenue  
Yorkton, SK S3N 1Z2  
Telephone/Fax/Email:  
Tel: (306) 786-2589  
Fax: (306) 786-7866

#### Contact Person

Roshan Hermani, Literacy  
Coordinator

#### Partnerships

- Child Action Plan Committee, Yorkton
- Child Action Plan Committee, Kamsack
- Parkland Regional College, National Literacy Secretariat

#### Goals of the Project

- To create a supportive environment for parents by promoting a reading culture;
- To demonstrate to parents the proactive role that they can play in meeting their children's learning needs;
- To provide opportunities for parents to address issues related to parenting skills;
- To assist parents in developing their own literacy skills.

#### Project Description

In October 1997, two Literacy Program staff and 15 volunteers were trained as family literacy facilitators. The objective in training the volunteers was to develop community manpower to sustain these projects in the future. Currently, paid staff includes one program coordinator, and several outreach workers.

Each weekly session includes sharing one main book and exploring related activities. Benefits for parents/caregivers include: the chance to review a variety of children's books; the opportunity to become involved with their child's education; the chance to spend quality time on learning activities; and the chance to teach their child that reading is fun. Benefits for children include: the opportunity to develop reading and listening skills; the chance to learn through play by doing creative activities and crafts; and the chance to discover the joy of reading.

This project has produced a written/video resource called *Reading: A Family Affair - Family Literacy Information Kit*. The complete cost is \$40.00. The multimedia components included in this information kit will serve as a starting point when planning presentations on family literacy, or when considering a family literacy component, to complement existing programs. Contents include:

- Workshop Leader's Notes - with handouts, reference notes and visuals
- Reference Materials - a variety of literacy pamphlets, brochures and booklets
- Family Literacy Video

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### *Learning Together, Playing Together*

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#### **Address**

Rainbow Youth Centre  
2338 Dewdney Avenue  
Regina, SK  
Tel: (306) 757-9743  
Fax: (306) 757-9759  
Email: rainbow@logicallink.com

#### **Contact Person**

Traci Schmekel

#### **Partnerships**

- Canadian Action Plan for Children (funders), Regina Food Bank
- District/Eastview Community Centre

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide young parents with different methods and tools in order to encourage and support the development of family literacy.

#### **Project Description**

This program allows parents to take an active role in helping their children to learn through play. Through group work and in-home visits, the program promotes positive play experiences that encourage and support the development of family literacy.

This program is staffed by one full-time coordinator and one full-time co-facilitator who, in partnership, implement and deliver the program.

Groups are held every Monday from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Regina Food Bank, and every Tuesday from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Eastview Community Center.

The remainder of the week is open for administration and in-home visits where staff members go into participants' homes and work with individual parents and their children.

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### *Open Doors to Family Literacy*

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#### **Address**

1895 Central Ave. B West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 4W8  
Tel: (306) 922-6736  
Fax: (306) 763-8165  
Email: pa.ywca@sk.sympatico.pa

#### **Contact Person**

Lillis Lawrence, Coordinator

**Partnerships**

- YWCA of Prince Albert, Prince Albert Literacy Network
- National Literacy Secretariat

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage parents of preschoolers to read with their children;
- To expand access to family literacy resources through the creation of a resource centre;
- To engage young mothers in the development and publication of a children's life skills book.

**Project Description**

Open Doors to Family Literacy is a ten-month project aimed at supporting literacy development in families in the community including low income, Aboriginal, and life skills participants. Groups of parents and caregivers meet for two-hour workshops, once a week, for six to eight weeks. The first phase of the project uses the "Come Read With Me" family reading program, where trained facilitators introduce books, poems, songs, and crafts, and model reading techniques. Parents practice reading within the group, browse through book displays, and share their experiences with reading and storytelling. Discussions are centred on child development and learning, and participants choose new books to take home, in order to develop a family library. In the second phase of the project, participants create a read-aloud children's life skills book. The project

has a part-time coordinator, and reading groups are held in various locations convenient to the participants.

Resources: Book title and cost to be determined by April 1998.

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**Teen Parent Networking Conference**


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**Address**

P. O. Box 509  
 LaRonge, SK S0J 1L0  
 Tel: (306) 425-4334  
 Fax: (306) 425-2696  
 Email:  
 ivanochkob@rongenet.sk.ca

**Contact Person**

Bebe Ivanochko, Literacy  
 Facilitator

**Partnerships**

- National Literacy Secretariat, Northlands College (LaRonge)

**Goals of the Project**

- To encourage young parents to stay connected to schools, community, and each other;
- To encourage the pursuit of education;
- To maintain a working list of teen parents and maintain support through annual conference updates.

**Project Description**

A yearly mini-conference is organized for area teens, where information is given regarding education, health issues, parenting, and opportunities. Local resource people are introduced to help build a support system for teen parents.



## Family Literacy Projects in the Yukon and Northwest Territories

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### *Baker Lake Family Literacy Project*

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#### **Address**

Box 393  
Baker Lake, NWT X0C 0A0  
Tel: (867) 793-2630  
Fax: (867) 793-2500

#### **Contact Person**

Sabrina Tripp, Project  
Coordinator

#### **Partnerships**

- Department of Education, Culture and Employment,
- Calm Air (sponsor), Northern Stores (sponsor), local schools

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To provide story hour for parents and children, take-home activity kits and a parent workshop;
- To foster a positive attitude in children toward reading;
- To increase parents' confidence in their abilities to support their children's efforts in school.

#### **Project Description**

The Baker Lake Family Literacy project is a free program designed to develop reading skills in children (Kindergarten through Grade Four). The program runs from September to March, with sessions being held on Saturdays for one hour each (K-2, 3-4). Activities include stories, songs and crafts which are shared between parents and children. Parent attendance is mandatory, with free books given after attendance at four sessions. Once a month there is a work-

shop for parents and teachers which focuses on helping children with homework. In an effort to reach more families, a literacy activity calendar was created by the Project Coordinator, and has been distributed to all students in Kindergarten through to Grade Four.

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### *Community Literacy Project*

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#### **Address**

c/o Lower Post First Nations  
Band Office  
Box 489  
Watson Lake, Yukon Y0A 1C0  
Tel: (250) 779-3161  
Fax: (250) 779-3371  
Email: lpfm@watson.net

#### **Contact Person**

Suzanne Hale, Coordinator;  
Rosemary Gill, Director of  
Education

#### **Partnerships**

- Northern Lights College - Stikine, Stikine District #87
- Lower Post First Nation

#### **Goals of the Project**

- To encourage the sharing of ideas and understanding within the community, through reading, writing and dialogue;
- To promote the sharing of books and ideas within the family;
- To encourage and support people, at all levels, in their studies, research and written communication;

- To develop community resources that foster these goals;
- To meet the defined needs of the community.

### **Project Description**

This program operates out of a location in British Columbia. In an effort to facilitate family literacy, the Lower Post First Nation Community Program helps to create projects that reflect the lives, interests and culture of the Kaska people who live in the Lower Post area.

Primarily the literacy program runs out of the Dena Le eh Learning Centre. Various programs are offered at the centre, including drop-in times for adults and children, as well as specific events, like Science club, homework club, individual tutorials in literacy, computer training, special events, and book fairs. Also there is a family lending library, and a collection of Kaska cultural books and resources. The Program attempts to make family literacy a meaningful tangible experience for families. A few projects that are taking shape, with a positive response, are: a Kaska doll, toddlers tactile book and an audiotape that teach the body parts, with names written in English and Kaska in the book, on the doll and then spoken on the tape; making family books about community

events with photos and captions; and arts week, which included puppet making and puppet play writing. To date, there has been an increased use of books and the computer individually and by families, along with a valuing of literacy skills, improved self-confidence and enthusiasm of learners, with a greater vision of the rewards of education.

Resources include: a written manual of Kaska History and Cultural Research Project Highlights, which sells for \$15.00, and a manual of Kaska Tales (3 legends), which sells for \$10.00.

The following information was received for four family literacy projects in the Northwest Territories:

Clyde River Family Literacy Project

Contact: Beverly Illauq

Tel.: (867) 924-6801

Fax: (867) 924-6362

Early Childhood Coalition, Hay River

Contact: Carolyn Carroll

Tel.: (867) 874-3871

Fax: (867) 874-3163

Kitikmeot Heritage Society

Contact: Kim Crockatt

Tel.: (867) 083-2263

Fax: (867) 986-2417

Word Wagon, Hay River

contact: Marilyn Barnes

Tel.: (867) 874-0460

Fax: (867) 874-3321

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# Materials

**The following practitioner materials may be obtained from:**

**Prospects Literacy Association**  
9913-108th Ave.  
Edmonton, AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323

A Practical Guide to Family Literacy. (Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta)

Building Strong and Effective Community Partnerships: A Manual for Family Literacy Workers. (Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta)

Guide to Evaluation for Family Literacy Projects in Alberta. Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta)

**The following family literacy resources may be obtained from:**

**Literacy Partners of Manitoba**  
998-167 Lombard Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0V3  
Tel: (204) 947-5757

The Barbarasaurus of Vimy Ridge Park/ [story by Jamie Oliviero and the children of the Broadway Day Nursery; drawings by Carole Anderson]--Winnipeg, MB: Vimy Ridge Park Literacy Program, 1994

Books for Babies --Corner Brook, NF: Humber Literacy Council, 1994

Brandon's Pickle Festival Family Literacy Olympics, September 10, 1994: user's manual and activities. Brandon, MB: Family Literacy Events Committee, 1994

Building strong and effective community partnerships: a manual for family literacy workers --Brooks, AB: Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta, 1996

Come read with me: a family literacy program: conference materials, 1980-1993.

Creating a love of reading + Susciter le gout de la lecture. Ottawa: National Literacy Secretariat, 1991.

Family literacy for Mennonites: a Steinbach literacy program. Steinbach, MB: 1994.

Intergenerational family literacy: a report on the Chilliwack Community Project/ prepared for the Ministry of Skills, Training, and Labour and the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources and Labour Canada, by Barbara Bate. Chilliwack, B.C., 1993.

Koko / Written by Dave Bouchard; illustrated by Royal Plant. Winnipeg, MB" Whole Language Consultants, 1993.

- L.I.F.E., literacy in families everywhere: models of family literacy that can be used in the home and the community/compiled by Angela Tessler. Winnipeg, MB: Literacy Workers Alliance of Manitoba, 1994.
- Learning , living and loving language : a handbook for parents/ Michelle Cochinov, Terry Hay, Margaret Mulvenna. Winnipeg, MB: Inner City Initiatives, 1989.
- Learning together: Family literacy in Ontario. Liza McCoy and Trudy Watts. Resources compiled by Trudy Watts. Kingston, ON: Family Literacy Interest Group of Ontario, 1992.
- Literacy for life: home reading guide. Winnipeg, MB: Manitoba Teacher's Society, 1994.
- Literacy projects for the family = Projects en alphabetisation pour la famille/ by the National Literacy Secretariat. Ottawa, ON: National Literacy Secretariat, 1994.
- Native literacy resources: An annotated bibliography. Compiled by Debbie Purton. Yorkton, SK: Parkland Regional College, 1994.
- Parents-as-Partners-as-Learners-guide (kit). Sherbrooke, PQ: Eastern Townships School Board, 1991.
- Parents, kids, & Mother Goose: A video for families, parent groups, and child care professionals. Toronto, ON: The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program, 1995.
- A practical guide to family literacy/ researched and written by Sharon Skage; a project of the Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta. Brooks, AB: Family Literacy Action Group of Alberta, 1995.
- The READ CANADA handbook/ compiled by Phillip Fernandez and Lynn Bowring; with an Introduction by Arlene Perly Rae. Toronto: Frontier College Press, 1993.
- Reading, a Family affair: family literacy information kit. Yorkton, SK: Parkland Regional College, 1995.
- Reading for life (video). Toronto: READ CANADA, 1992.
- Reading to children (videorecording). Compiled by Winnipeg Children's Literature Roundtable. Winnipeg, MB: The Roundtable, 1996.
- Report on National Conference on Family Literacy, Ottawa, Canada, November 2-5, 1994: Family learning: It all starts here. Compiled by Charles Casement. Ottawa, 1995.

# Appendix 1

## Project Request Letter and Project Description Form

### *Please Participate in This Opportunity to Share Information About Your Family Literacy Project*

Dear Fellow Literacy Practitioner:

Interest in family literacy has continued to grow over the last several years, as communities have developed ways to assist families in literacy development. We are pleased to report that the National Literacy Secretariat has funded a project to publish a catalogue of family literacy initiatives across Canada.

The publication of profiles of Canadian family literacy projects will better enable individual projects to disseminate information to a wide audience across North America and locate other projects of interest. At the same time, such a publication will highlight the high level of community activity for family literacy involvement and underscore the significance of the family for literacy development.

We would like to invite you to join in this effort by including your project in the publication. At this time we foresee that the publication will represent all the Provinces and include short profiles of a wide variety of family literacy initiatives developed by different community organizations and institutions.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed "Profile Summary" and return it to Adele Thomas. Your project will appear in the National Literacy Secretariat publication and your project will receive a complimentary copy. Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Adele Thomas & Sharon Skage  
Family Literacy Profiles Coordinators

## Family Literacy Project Profile

**Project Title:**

**Address:**

**Telephone/FAX/email:**

**Contact Person:**

**Project Partners (i.e., funding, co-sponsors):**

**Project Description:** (A short summary... Use back of page, if needed... You might wish to enclose a brochure made for your project...)

(Include: *What?* project activity... *Who?* staff and target group... *When?* does project occur and how long has it been in operation... *Where?* does it happen...)

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**Goals of the Project:**

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**Impact of the Project:**

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**Project evaluation procedures/results available? \_ Y \_ N**

**Has the project produced written/video material** which may be mentioned? \_\_\_

If yes, list the titles/cost:

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Please mail to: **Adele Thomas, Brock University, Faculty of Education,  
500 Glenridge Ave.  
St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1**

## Appendix 2

### Provincial Literacy Organizations

The following list of provincial literacy organizations will be helpful to those wishing to learn about specific family literacy activities within each province. These organizations include provincial government literacy coordinators, literacy councils and associations, and special interest groups working with families.

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#### Alberta

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##### **Alberta Advanced Education & Career Development Community Programs**

Commerce Place, 8th Fl.  
10155 102nd Street  
Edmonton AB T5J 4L5  
Tel: (403) 427-5704  
Fax: (403) 422-1297  
Email: KeithAnderson@aerd.gov.ab.ca  
Contact: Keith Anderson

##### **Alberta Association for Adult Literacy**

332 Sixth Ave. S.E.  
Calgary AB T2G 4S6  
Tel: (403) 297-4994  
Fax: (403) 297-6037  
Email: Sheelagh\_Matthews@aaal.ab.ca  
Contact: Sheelagh Matthews, President

##### **Alberta Association for Continuing Education**

c/o Faculty of Extension  
Rm. 4-42A Faculty Extension Centre  
University of Alberta  
93 University Campus NW  
Edmonton AB T6G 2T4  
Tel: (403) 492-1501  
Fax: (403) 492-1857  
Email: dconrad@pop.srv.ualberta.ca  
Contact: Dianne Conrad, President

**Community Learning Network**

501, 9707-110 Street  
Edmonton AB T5K 2L9  
Tel: (403) 488-7917  
Fax: (403) 488-8148  
Email: learnnet@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca  
Contact: Delores Knudson

**Literacy Coordinators of Alberta**

332 Sixth Avenue S.E.  
Calgary AB T2G 4S6  
Tel: (403) 297-4995  
Fax: (403) 297-4849  
Email: Todd\_Ringness@aal.ab.ca  
Contact: Todd Ringness, Operations Coordinator

**Centre for Family Literacy Project**

9913-108 Avenue  
Edmonton AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 424-1660  
Fax: (403) 424-1676  
Email: Diane Wozniak@aal.ab.ca

**Prospects Literacy Association**

9913 - 108th Ave.  
Edmonton AB T5H 1A5  
Tel: (403) 421-7323  
Contact: Maureen Sanders, Coordinator

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**British Columbia**

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**Adult Basic Education Association of BC**

#27035 - 1395 Marine Drive  
West Vancouver BC V7T 1H0  
Email: bjohnson@computime.bc.ca  
Contact: Brent Johnson, Vice President

**BC Council for Families**

#204-2590 Granville St.  
Vancouver BC V6H 3H1  
Tel: (604) 660-0675  
Fax: (604) 732-4813  
Email: bccf@istar.ca  
Contact: Dr. Carol Matusicky, Executive Director

**Laubach Literacy of British Columbia**

201-421 St. Paul Street  
Kamloops B.C. V2C 2J7  
Tel: (250) 374-5240 or (B.C. only) 800-766-4660  
Fax: (250) 828-0636  
Email: laubach@mail.netshop.net  
Contact: Jan Seedhouse, Co-ordinator  
BC Interior Field Services

**Literacy BC**

622 - 510 West Hastings St  
Vancouver BC V6B 1L8  
Tel: (604) 684-0624  
Fax: (604) 684-8520  
Email: literacybc@douglas.bc.ca  
Contact: Linda Mitchell / Sandy Middleton

**Ministry of Education, Skills and Training Colleges and Program Planning Branch**

835 Humboldt Street (St. Ann's Academy)  
PO Box 9877 Stn Provincial Government  
Victoria BC V8W 9T6  
Tel: (250) 387-6174  
Fax: (250) 952-6110  
Email: Audrey.Thomas@gems5.gov.bc.ca  
Contact: Audrey Thomas, Project Officer  
Manitoba Literacy Organizations

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**Manitoba**

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**Aboriginal Literacy Foundation**

309 Higgins Ave.  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3G1  
Tel: (204) 949-1154  
Fax: (204) 989-7113  
Email: ate2@cyberspc.mb.ca  
Contact: Rhonda McCorriston

**Department of Education and Training  
Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit  
Employment Development Programs & Literacy**

410-185 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg MB R3C 3J1  
Tel: (204) 945-8247  
Fax: (204) 945-1792  
Contact: Mary Lou Kuxhouse, Director

**Laubach Literacy Manitoba**

25 Regina Place, Room 102  
Winnipeg MB R2C 0S5  
Tel: (204) 224-9099  
Email: kboskamp@MTS.Net  
Contact: Karen Boskamp, President

**Literacy Partners of Manitoba**

Grain Exchange Building  
998-167 Lombard Ave.  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3B 0V3  
Tel: (204) 947-5757  
Fax: (204) 944-9918  
Email: literacy@magic.mb.ca  
Contact: Marg Rose, Executive Director

**Literacy Partners of Manitoba**

102-7 Arctic Drive  
Thompson MB R8N 1S5  
Tel: (204) 778-7984  
Fax: (204) 677-5177  
Contact: Wendy Lindblad, Northern Regional Coordinator

**Literacy Partners of Manitoba**

Box 68, Group 349, RR3  
Selkirk Manitoba R1A 2A8  
Tel: (204) 482-6248  
Email: rsargins@sirnet.mb.ca  
Contact: Rob Sarginson, Interlake Regional Coordinator

**Manitoba Reading Association**

175 Waverly St.  
Winnipeg MB R3M 3K3  
Contact: Adeline Bourbonniere

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**New Brunswick**

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**Advanced Education and Labour**

470 York Street  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton NB E3B 5H1  
Tel: (506) 453-2066  
Fax: (506) 444-4960  
Email: jleblanc@gov.nb.ca  
Contact: Jean LeBlanc

**Fédération d'alphabétisation du N-B Inc.**

CP 189  
Richibouctou, NB E0A 2M0  
Tel: (506) 523-7374  
Fax: (506) 523-7715  
Contact: Roger Doiron, President

**Laubach Literacy New Brunswick**

62 Williams Street  
Moncton NB E1C 2G5  
Tel: (506) 857-8708 (office)  
Tel: (506) 388-3013 (home)  
Fax: (506) 857-8989  
Email: sgemton@nbnet.nb.ca  
Contact: Peter Sawyer, President

**Literacy New Brunswick Inc.**

416 York St., P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton NB E3B 5H1  
Tel: (506) 453-3298  
Fax: (506) 453-3038  
Email: bourgma@gov.nb.ca  
Contact: Maryanne Bourgeois

**Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et du Travail**

C.P. 6000  
Fredericton NB E3B 5H1  
Tel: (506) 453-2169  
Telecopieur: (506) 444-4960  
C. Electr: lchiasson@gov.nb.ca  
Contact: Leonce Chiasson

**New Brunswick Committee on Literacy**

88 Prospect Street West  
Fredericton NB E3B 2T8  
Tel: (506) 457-1227  
Fax: (506) 458-1352  
Email: nbcomlit@brunswickmicro.nb.ca  
Contact: Jan Greer

**Second Chance Learners**

153 Mazerolle Settlement Road  
RR6  
Fredericton NB E3B 4X7  
Tel: (506) 363-5587  
Email: scl@nald.ca  
Contact: Miles MacIntosh, President

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## **Newfoundland & Labrador**

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### **Central Eastern Literacy Outreach Office**

175 Airport Blvd.  
Gander, NF A1V 1K6  
Tel: (709) 256-7368  
Toll Free: 1-800-575-8228  
Fax: (709) 256-2618  
Email: edoldford@thezone.net  
Contact: Ed Oldford, Literacy Field Worker

### **Community Adult Participants in Education Committee (C.A.P.E.)**

P.O. Box 9  
Newtown NF A0G 3L0  
Tel: (709) 536-3329  
Fax: (709) 536-5613  
Contact: Deon Perry, Literacy Coordinator

### **Department of Education and Training**

P.O. Box 8700  
St. John's NF A1B 4J6  
Tel: (709) 729-5711  
Email: reingueha@edu.gov.nf.ca  
Contact: Rene Enguehard, Program Consultant

### **Economic Zone #15**

P.O. Box 39  
Shoal Harbour, NF A0C 2L0  
Tel: (709) 466-1725  
Fax: (709) 466-1750  
Toll Free: 1-800-228-1995  
(NF and LB only)  
Email: mbrown@porthole.entnet.nf.ca  
Contact: Michelle Brown, Literacy Outreach Worker  
Bonavista & Surrounding Area

### **Fisherman, Food and Allied Workers Union**

P.O. Box 10, Cormack Building  
2 Steers Cove  
St. Hohn's, NF A1C 5H5  
Tel: (709) 576-7276  
Fax: (709) 576-1962  
Contact: John Mackey

**Labrador Institute of Northern Studies**

P.O. Box 490, Stn. B  
Happy Valley, Goose Bay  
Labrador AOP IEO  
Tel: (709) 896-2978  
Fax: (709) 896-2970  
Email: jskinner@terra.nlnet.nf.ca  
Contact: Janet Skinner, Educational Specialist

**Laubach Literacy Council of Newfoundland**

76 Sullivan Avenue  
Gander NF A1V 1S2  
Tel: (709) 651-1061  
Fax: (709) 651-3849  
Email: Diane.Hunt@thezone.net  
Contact: Diane Hunt, President

**Learning Access Centre**

Random North Region  
P.O. Box 6363  
Clarenville Newfoundland A0E 1J0  
Tel: (709) 663-1124  
Email: dsstone@turner.eastcoll.nf.ca  
Contact: Debbie Stone, Coordinator

**Newfoundland & Labrador Literacy Development Council**

238 Blackmarble Road  
St. John's NF A1E 1T2  
Tel: (709) 738-7323  
Fax: (709) 738-7353  
Email: wtaylor@newcomm.net  
Contact: Wayne Taylor

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**Nova Scotia Literacy Organizations**

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**Antigonish County Adult Learning Association**

Frankville NS B0H 1K0  
Tel: (902) 863-4494 or 234-3430  
Email: acala@grassroots.ns.ca  
Contact: Judy Cairns,  
Project Coordinator

**Department of Education and Culture  
Adult Education Section**

Trade Mart Building  
 2021 Brunswick Street  
 P.O. Box 578  
 Halifax NS B3J 2S9  
 Tel: (902) 424-5162  
 Fax: (902) 424-0666  
 Email: hlfxtrad.educ.smythjf@gov.ns.ca  
 Contact: Maria Cogswell, Family Literacy Coordinator

**Nova Scotia Provincial Literacy Coalition**

Box 1516  
 Truro NS B2N 5V2  
 Tel: (902) 897-24444  
 Fax: (902) 897-4020  
 Email: nsplc@fox.nstn.ca  
 Contact: Patty Cave, Chair

**Saint Leonard's Society**

2549 Brunswick Street  
 Halifax NS B3K 2Z5  
 Tel: (902) 423-1219  
 Fax: (902) 492-0704  
 Contact: Margie Naish

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**Ontario**

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**Adult Basic Education Association of Hamilton/Wentworth**

Lloyd Jackson Square  
 2 King Street West  
 Jackson Station  
 P.O. Box 57060  
 Hamilton, ON L8P 4W9  
 Tel: (905) 527-2222  
 Fax: (905) 527-2166  
 Contact: Liz Robinson, Executive Director

**Community Literacy of Ontario**

159 Second Ave. South, Unit 44  
 Sudbury ON P3B 4J2  
 Tel: (795) 566-7838  
 Fax: (705) 566-1077  
 Email: kaattari@vianet.on.ca  
 Contact: Joanne Kaattari, Coordinator

**Francophone Literacy Programs Ontario Training and Adjustment Board**

625 Church Street, 3rd Floor  
Toronto ON M4Y 2E8  
Tel: (416) 326-5495  
Fax: (416) 326-5505  
Contact: Raymond Day

**Halidmond Norfolk Literacy Council**

45 King Street West  
P.O. Box 1119  
Hagersville, ON N0A 1H0  
Tel: (905) 768-1565  
Fax: (905) 768-1993  
Email: hgvlit@kwic.com  
Contact: Leah Morris

**L'Alliance des groupes d'alphabétisation de l'Ontario**

1468, rue Laurier  
Rockland ON K4K 1C7  
Tel: (613) 446-5312  
Fax: (613) 446-7898  
Contact: Suzanne Benoit, Coordonnatrice

**Literacy Link Niagara**

15 King Street, Suite 301B  
St. Catharines ON L2R 3H1  
Tel: (905) 682-2222  
Fax: (905) 682-2298  
Email: literacy@mergetel.com  
Contact: Gay Douglas, Executive Director

**Literacy Network of the Durham Region**

58 Rosland Road West  
Oshawa, ON L1G 2V8  
Tel: (905) 725-4786  
Fax: (905) 434-5441  
Contact: Wanda Pitchforth, Executive Director

**London Literacy Network**

c/o London Public Library  
305 Queens Avenue  
London, ON N6B 3L7  
Tel: (519) 661-5182  
Fax: (519) 663-5396  
Contact: Donna Smith

**Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy (MTML)**

365 Bloor Street East  
Ste.#1003  
Toronto, ON M4W 3L4  
Tel: (416) 961-4013  
Fax: (416) 961-8138  
Contact: Naomi Garber

**Northeastern Ontario Literacy Network**

378 Albert Street East  
Sault St. Marie, ON P6A 2J6  
Tel: (705) 945-0811  
Fax: (705) 945-9021  
Contact: Bill Vair

**Ontario Literacy Coalition**

1003-365 Bloor Street East  
Toronto ON M4W 3L4  
Tel: (416) 963-5787  
Fax: (416) 961-8102  
Contact: Susan Sussman, Executive Director

**Ontario Native Literacy Coalition**

1173 2nd Ave. East  
Owen Sound ON N4K 2J1  
Tel: (519) 371-5594  
Fax: (519) 371-5598  
Email: onlc@bmts.com  
Contact: Maria King

**Ontario Training and Adjustment Board**

625 Church Street, 3rd Floor  
Toronto ON M4Y 2E8  
Tel: (416) 326-5488  
Fax: (416) 326-5505  
Contact: Harold Alden,  
English Literacy Provincial Coordinator

**Organization for Literacy in Lambton Inc.**

P.O. Box 374  
Sarnia, ON N7T 7J2  
Tel: (519) 332-4876  
Fax: (519) 332-0916  
Contact: Jo-Ann Schultz, Coordinator

**Project READ Literacy Network**

20 Erb St. West  
11th Floor  
Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2  
Tel: (519) 884-1318/ 836-7164  
Fax: (519) 746-7835  
Email: projread@golden.net  
Contact: Anne Ramsay, Executive Director

**School of Social Work, University of Ottawa**

43 Templeton St.  
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5  
Tel: (613) 562-5800, ext. 6391  
Fax: (613) 562-5495  
Email: nstamand@aixl.uottawa.ca  
Contact: Neree St.Amand

**Simcoe County Literacy Network**

93 Bell Farm Road  
Barrie, ON L4M 5G1  
Tel: (705) 734-2543  
Fax: (705) 734-2537  
Email: scln@ican.net  
Contact: Judith Fowler, Network Coordinator

**Southwestern Ontario Adult Literacy Network**

475 Caradoc St. South  
Strathroy, ON N7G 2R1  
Tel: (519) 246-1577  
Toll Free: 1-800-561-6896  
Fax: (519) 246-1414  
Contact: Tamara Riddle, Executive Director

**Sudbury Literacy Network**

Sudbury Community Literacy  
124 Cedar St., 3rd Floor  
Sudbury, ON P3E 1B4  
Tel: (705) 671-1499  
Fax: (705) 671-2635  
Contact: Kristen Gunn

**Walkerton and District Literacy Council**

120 Yonge St. South, Ste.#2  
Box 1386  
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0  
Tel: (519) 881-3858  
Contact: Allison Rowe

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**Prince Edward Island**

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**Office of Higher Education  
Training and Adult Learning**

3rd Floor, Shaw Building  
105 Rochford Street  
P.O. Box 2000  
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 368-6286  
Fax: (902) 368-6144  
Email: jahill@gov.pe.ca  
Contact: Judy Hill

**P.E.I. Literacy Alliance**

P.O. Box 400  
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7K7  
Tel: (902) 368-3620  
Fax: (902) 628-8178  
Email: peila@cycor.ca  
Contact: Dianne Morrow, Executive Director

**Ready to Learn Association**

Box 2000  
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 368-4695  
Fax: (902) 368 4702  
Email: rsla@peinet.pe.ca  
Contact: Cathy Campbell

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**Quebec**

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**Concerted Literacy Councils of Quebec (CICQ)****Chateauguay Valley**

384 Montcalm  
Chateauguay, Quebec J6J 1T7  
Tel/Fax: (514) 691-1280  
Contact: Jan McConnell

**Laurenval Literacy Council**

3200 Souvenir Road  
Chomedey, Laval, Quebec  
H7V 1W9  
Tel: (514) 688-2933; (514) 624-7829  
Fax: (514) 688-8125; (514) 624-6098  
Contact: Darlene Brown

**Reclaim**

880 Cardinal, Room 208  
St. Laurent, Quebec H4L 3E2  
Tel: (514) 747-3451  
Fax: (514) 747-3583  
Contact: Ricki Goldstein

**Western Quebec Literacy**

P.O. Box 266  
Shawville, Quebec J0X 2Y0  
Tel/Fax: (819) 647-3112  
Contact: Marilee DeLombard

**Gaspésie Literacy Council**

1897 Douglas Blvd.  
Douglastown, Quebec G0C 1M0  
Tel: (418) 368-5601  
Fax: (418) 368-4906  
Contact: James Routh

**Literacy Unlimited**

145 Cartier Avenue, Room 105  
Pte. Claire, Quebec H9S 4R9  
Tel: (514) 694-0007  
Fax: (514) 694-3590  
Contact: Janice Bailie

**South Shore Reading Council**

3965 Hillcrest Street  
St.-Hubert, Quebec J3Y 5K7  
Tel: (514) 676-1483  
Fax: (514) 671-1029  
Contact: Nina Nichols

**Yamaska Literacy Council**

418 Radisson  
Cowansville, Quebec J2K 3C3  
Tel: (450) 263-7503  
Fax: (450) 263-7209  
Contact: Donna Ross

**Laurentian Literacy**

P.O. Box 401  
Lachute, Quebec J8H 3X9  
Tel: (514) 562-3719  
Contact: Danielle Hay

**Quebec City Reading Council**

1150 de Constance  
Cap-Rouge, Quebec G1Y 1K2  
Tel: (418) 658-8298; (418) 688-8730, ext. 245  
Fax: (418) 658-2690; (418) 682-5891  
Contact: Ann M. Gauvin

**St-Francis Literacy Council**

320 Taylor Brook Road, RR 1  
Georgeville, Quebec J0B 1T0  
Tel: (819) 868-0470  
Fax: (819) 876-5891  
Contact: Leila Atkin

**Literacy Partners of Quebec**

3040 Sherbrooke St. W.,  
Room 4B1  
Montreal PQ H3Z 1A4  
Tel: (514) 931-8731  
Fax: (514) 933-5181  
Contact: Judy Brandeis

**Service de l'alphabétisation****Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec**

1035, rue de la Chevrotière  
Quebec PQ G1R 5A5  
Tel: (418) 644-0220  
Fax: (418) 643-0056  
Email: lino@megatoon.com  
Contact: Lino Mastriani, Coordonnateur

**Regroupement des groupes populaires en alphabétisation du Québec**

1-5040 Boul. St-Laurent  
Montreal PQ H2T 1R7  
Tel: (514) 277-9976  
Fax: (514) 277-2044  
Contact: Nicole Lachapelle, Coordinatrice

**The Centre for Literacy of Quebec**

3040 Sherbrooke Street West  
Room 4B, 1-6  
Montreal PQ H3Z 1A4  
Tel: (514) 931-8731, ext 1415  
Fax: (514) 931-5181  
Email: [literacycntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca](mailto:literacycntr@dawsoncollege.qc.ca)  
Contact: Linda Shohet, Director

**The Quebec Association for Adult Learning**

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West  
Room LB 614-3  
Montreal PQ H3G 1M8  
Tel: (514) 848-2036  
Fax: (514) 848-4520  
Email: [qaal@alcor.concrodia.ca](mailto:qaal@alcor.concrodia.ca)  
Contact: Ruth Bradford, President

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**Saskatchewan**

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**Saskatchewan Literacy Network**

206, 2204 Third Avenue South  
Saskatoon SK S7K 1M1  
Tel: (306) 653-7368  
Fax: (306) 933-6490  
Email: [sklit@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:sklit@sk.sympatico.ca)  
Contact: Nayda Veeman, Exec. Director

**Saskatchewan Literacy Network**

c/o Learning Centre  
1106 Central Avenue  
Prince Albert SK S6V 4V6  
Tel: (306) 953-5526  
Fax: (306) 953-5355  
Email: [family.lit.jtg@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:family.lit.jtg@sk.sympatico.ca)  
Contact: Janice Thomas Gervais,  
Family Literacy Coordinator

**Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training**

3085 Albert Street  
Regina SK S4P 3V7  
Tel: (306) 787-2513  
Fax: (306) 933-7182  
Email: [dwoloshvn@sasked.gov.sk.ca](mailto:dwoloshvn@sasked.gov.sk.ca)  
Contact: Donna Woloshyn, Program Manager  
Adult Literacy and ESL

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## Northwest Territories

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**Investing in People Advanced Education  
Government of the Northwest Territories**

P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 920-8807  
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**Literacy and Language Enhancement Advanced Education  
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**NorthWest Territories Literacy Council**

P.O. Box 761  
Yellowknife N.W.T X1A 2N6  
Tel: (867) 873-9262  
Fax: (867) 873-0423  
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