



### Stories remind us of the Past

Helen Robertson is in China and running 2 Circle of the Sun groups a week, one for babies up to 12 months and one for toddlers, with a mix of ages from 1-5. She finds it is really fun having the older kids and seeing them do the rhymes themselves.

She writes: A nice thing happened today that I wanted to share with you. I told the Rat Princess story to the baby group a few weeks ago and today one of the mothers, a Nepali woman, said that she remembered being told that story as a child in Nepal. She had forgotten it entirely but as she listened, it came back to her. I asked her about the end of the story, as the Nepali's probably don't refer to the Great Wall of China. She laughed and said that they use a mountain in the story, with the rats gnawing holes in the mountain, I guess when you have the Himalayas it is hard to get bigger than that. She was so pleased to have had the story brought back to her and I thought you would enjoy the link.

~ Helen Robertson

#### Story: The Rat Princess (Chinese)

There once lived a rat king who had a daughter, a very fine rat princess. When it was time for the rat princess to be married, the rat king decided that only the most important of people would do for his daughter's husband. She was, after all, a royal princess.

One day the rat princess came to her father saying she had something to talk to him about. The rat king did not listen to what she had to say. Instead he told her, "It is time for you to be married. You are a princess and should marry the most powerful of beings. That must surely be the sun and so I will go to him and offer him your hand in marriage."

The rat king set off and when he came to the Sun, he told him what he had in mind. "Brother" replied the sun, "I am truly honoured that you would consider me as a future son in law, but I am not the most important person as you suggest. When the cloud comes, it covers me up as it wishes, and so the cloud is more powerful than I."

So the rat king went to the cloud and said to him, "It is time for my daughter to be married. Since you are the most powerful being, I would like to offer you her hand in marriage."

"Brother rat, I am honoured by your request" replied the cloud. "However I cannot accept. For when the rain wishes to fall, it pierces my skin and I am powerless to stop it. It is the rain who is the most powerful being."

"Aha!" Now the rat king knew what to do. He went to visit the rain. "Brother rain, I would like to offer my daughter's hand in marriage to you, the most powerful of beings."

"Indeed brother rat, I am most honoured. However whenever I fall to the earth, the ground soaks me up. The ground is more powerful than I." The rat king thanked the rain for his considerate response and went on to

#### In this issue:

- [A Gathering of Geese](#) (page 2)
- [Northern Notes](#) (page 3)
- [AGM information](#) (page 3)
- [New Resource](#) (page 4)
- [Program & Training Committee News](#) (page 4)
- [Upcoming Toronto Training Workshops](#) (page 5)
- [Membership Information](#) (page 6)

## Mother Goose Around the World ...

**The Rat Princess** Continued from page 1

The ground was also most honoured by the rat king's suggestion. "However" said the ground, "if the truth be told, I am not the most powerful being. For the great wall of China runs for thousands of miles across me and divides me in two. It is truly the great wall of China who is more powerful." The king was feeling a little tired but since he must find the most important person for his daughter, he continued on his way. He met the great wall of China and addressing him respectfully the rat king repeated his marriage offer. "Ah," said the great wall " I am fortunate indeed to receive such a proposal as this. However I cannot accept." The rat king sighed. "You see," said the great wall, " although I look impressive at first sight, there are holes everywhere beneath me that cause me to crumble and fall. It is the rats who gnaw these holes and who are far more powerful than I."

The rat king thanked the great wall and went happily back to his own kingdom.

"Daughter," he said proudly, "You are a princess and shall be married to the most important of people. You shall be married to a rat!" The rat princess smiled.

"Thank-you father" she said, "that is why I wanted to talk to you too. I have chosen the rat I would like to marry and he is right here." And she reached towards a sleek grey rat standing beside her. The rat king was delighted for his daughter to marry such an important person! All the rats were invited to the wedding and the feasting, dancing and merriment lasted for days.



## Mother Goose Across Canada ...

### ***A Gathering of Geese: Strengthening the PCMG community in Calgary***

A few weeks ago, the Bowness Montgomery Early Literacy Project held an inter-agency gathering of Parent-Child Mother Goose facilitators at the Bowness Boys and Girls Club in Calgary. Inspired by one of our veteran "Geese", Linda Michel, and encouraged by PCMG Board member, Heather Boonstra, we decided to bring together PCMG facilitators from around the city to get to know one another and to learn from each other. The Gathering was facilitated by storyteller and PCMG trainer, Ginger Mullen and hosted eighteen women from nine different agencies who work with young Calgary families. We met, shared our experiences, and taught each other the favourite songs, rhymes and stories from our various PCMG programs. It was a wonderful morning of good food, good stories, and great connecting - a great opportunity to get energized before our respective programs kicked off for the year. I would really encourage facilitators to hold this kind of event and would be happy to talk with anyone interested in coordinating a gathering - it's easy and so worth it!

*Thank you to Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, Calgary Family Services, the Centre for Family Literacy and the PCMG National Office for their support of the Gathering. We hope to make this an annual event!*

~ Lisa Hurtle

bowmontmothergoose@shaw.ca

PCMG Coordinator, Calgary Family Services

Please keep in touch with us:

Catherine Taylor

Administrative Assistant

**Parent-Child Mother Goose  
Program National Office**

720 Bathurst St., suite 500A

Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

416-588-5234; fax: 416-588-1355

[national@web.net](mailto:national@web.net)

## ... Mother Goose Across Canada ...

### Northern Notes

We had our Second Annual Parent-Child Mother Goose Summer Reunion Party. It was a wonderful day weather-wise and there was much visiting and catching up over snacks before our circle began. Then we Twinkle, Twinkled our northern lights, and Row, Rowed our boats; we were turtles creeping up the hill and spiders crawling up some backs. We sang and rhymed, we danced and played...but most of all we celebrated our families along with our friends!

Also we introduced P-CMG as a first ever summer program at one of local high school's Teen-Parent Centre. it was a great success! We had an enthusiastic core of moms and dads attending, and the program was so well received that we will be having a once monthly "refresher" with the families.

Summer has left us and autumn in full swing up here...as is P-CMG. We have two ongoing groups about to start up again, a Toddler Group, and an Infant Group. As well, this fall we will be starting up some new P-CMGing with parents at a Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies program.

Here's another "northern adapted" rhyme for everyone: to the tune of Baa Baa Black Sheep

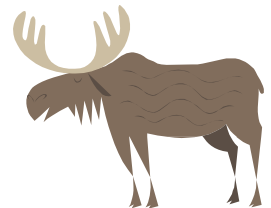
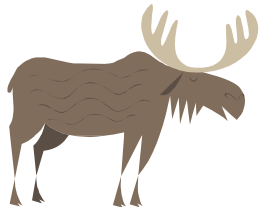
~ Barbara Curtis, YT

#### Bwaa Bwaa Black Moose

Bwaa bwaa black moose  
Have you any fat?  
Yes sir, yes sir  
Three backpacks.

One for my gramma  
And one for my aunt,  
And one for the little boy  
Who falls out of his pants,

Bwaa bwaa black moose  
Have you any fat?  
Yes sir, yes sir,  
Three backpacks.



#### Share your program with the rest of the P-CMGP Network!

Write about your program for the Network News newsletter. It brings joy, strengthens the network and creates new energy when you share your stories across Canada and Australia. We

love to include your stories, pictures and news. Please send submissions to Nancy Thurston,

Communications Committee Animator: [nancy@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:nancy@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

#### **Notice of the AGM for the National Parent Child Mother Goose Program by Teleconference**

Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30 EST. Please contact Nancy Thurston at [Nancy@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:Nancy@ns.aliantzinc.ca) or 902-895-0200 to receive information regarding calling in to the Teleconference. All are welcome!

#### **Notice of the AGM for the Vermont Square Parent Child Mother Goose Program (Toronto Region)**

Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> and starts at 6pm – Location TBA. contact Natalia at [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net) or 416-588-5234 ext. 21 to RSVP. Dinner will be served, there will be a short meeting and a program of stories and rhymes. Everyone is welcome!

## Mother Goose News

### New Parent-Child Mother Goose Resource

Mother Goose is a splendid board book filled with sixteen age-old rhymes and the artwork of many of Canada's best-loved children's book illustrators. Many of Canada's finest illustrators gave their work in support of our program to this beautiful collection when it first came out in 1994. Now an incarnation of the Sampler makes it available once again to delight parents and children and to support the ongoing vitality of our program. To order this book, please contact the Toronto office. [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net)  
(This is the book Celia is reading from in the picture)

### Parent-Child Mother Goose Program at the Word on the Street Festival

~ Toronto, September 2009

Celia Lottridge in the Little Readers Tent sharing 'Hey diddle diddle' from the re-printed Mother Goose board book and stories from Ten Small Tales.



Hey diddle diddle  
    The cat and the fiddle,  
The cow jumped over the moon;  
    The little dog laughed  
    To see such sport  
And the dish ran away with the spoon

### Program and Training Committee News

Excerpts from recently received program reports. Please keep these reports coming. It rewarding to read your comments and learn of your successes and challenges.

from a program report from Australia:

"The program made a big difference to our apprentice co-leader. She was amazed by the cognitive development and the social/emotional development that occurred in children through the interaction between the child and parent and between children together with no need for toys. Prior to being involved in the P-CMGP she had always used toys in her work with children and she was sceptical at first about not using toys during the program. She is now a firm convert!"

from the P-CMGP program at the Calgary Public Library:

"One mother contacted us by phone to ask if her child could attend even though he was older than the rest of the group...The mom had been taking him to a speech therapist and thought this kind of oral interaction would be beneficial. The two of them did attend, and by week 5, he began reciting the rhymes and repeating refrains of the songs. His mother was delighted and really noted the difference in his development. By the end of the program, the child's speech pathologist reported a huge change in his abilities and attributed participation in the Mother Goose program as a contributing factor."

We look forward to continued learning, fun and interaction with Calgary babies and their parents and caregivers as we continue to offer this great program.

Newsletter compiled by Giselle Carter

# Training Opportunities

## **The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® Announces its Upcoming Toronto Training Workshops for 2010**

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® is a program for parents or caregivers with infants to age four. For over 20 years the P-CMGP has been promoting bonding, attachment, and early literacy skills through the oral tradition, using interactive rhymes, songs and storytelling. P-CMGP offers training in the program to hundreds of people working in agencies across Canada and in Australia every year.



**\*In a 2006 national survey the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® received more 5-star ratings from service agencies than any other parent-child program in the country.**

*"Best I've found – for all cultures and socio-economic groups I have found in thirty years as a public health nurse in the north. Addresses parenting infant/child development, nutrition, socialization and is the most economical of all parenting programs. My moms with post-partum depression and living in poverty flourish in Mother Goose!!!!"*

- respondent

- From results of National Survey, *Making Choices: Parenting and Parent-Child Programs that Fit*, published by FRP, Canada, July 2006

### **Teacher Training Workshops 2010**

*All workshops are taught by P-CMGP approved Facilitators.*

- **January 22 & 23** with Sandra Carpenter-Davis
- **February 19 & 20** with Megan Williams
- **April 16 & 17** with Ruth Danziger
- **May 28 & 29** with Megan Williams
- **September 24 & 25** with Celia Lottridge
- **Nov 12 & 13** with Sandra Carpenter-Davis

### **Storytelling Workshops**

- **Saturday, March 6** with Lynda Howes
- Friday, October 15** with Celia Lottridge

### **Your Grandma & My Grandma;**

*Connecting Cultures through the P-CMGP*

- **Friday, February 26**, with Ruth Danziger

Cost per person: Two Day Teacher Training Workshop \$262 + GST, One Day Workshops \$131 + GST

\*Space is limited. Please register early to avoid disappointment.  
All workshops take place at our Office at 720 Bathurst St., Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

Contact: 416-588-5234 ext. 21, [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net) to register or download registration forms from our website at <http://www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram/>

## Membership Information

### Support the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program® By becoming a Member and/or making a donation

- Our membership year is January 1st—December 31st
- A strong membership demonstrates that our innovative work has community support
- As an informed member, you can become a voice for the program
- Your questions and comments can help us develop our resources, our programs and our outreach.

#### Associate Members \$25, International \$50

- Receive 3 newsletters each year, including early notice of new publications
- Receive results of research and professional studies of the program
- May photocopy our newsletter and other mailings to distribute to staff members
- Attend AGM and Elect National Council
- Receive invitations to programs and events

#### Program Members (Sliding Scale Fee: See website for details)

In addition to the above, Program Members can:

- Use the registered trademarked name and logo
- Participate in research of the P-CMGP®
- Receive notification of special events
- Send us regular reports to help us advocate for the program and to plan for new resources and training
- Receive electronic copies of the brochure to assist with program promotion and outreach
- Your P-CMGP program is posted on our website

#### Donations

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program R is a non-profit charitable organization. Donations are vital to our ability to deliver and develop the program and make it accessible for all Canadians regardless of ability to pay. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for your donations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I enclosed the yearly membership fee of \_\_\_\_\_

I also wish to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Total payment \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:  Cheque  Visa  Master Card

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail to:

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®

720 Bathurst Street, Suite 500A, Toronto, ON M5S 2R4

Ph: 416-588-5234 Fax: 416-588-1355

E-mail: [national@web.net](mailto:national@web.net) [www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram](http://www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram)

Charitable Registration Number 859460842 RR0001

[www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities)