



Singing and Rhyming, Bonding and Learning:

Results of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program Province-Wide Survey
(British Columbia) 2007-2008

"The Parent Child Mother Goose program has definitely had lasting effects. It was the first time I truly connected with other mothers. Other programs don't last long enough to bond. After 10 weeks I suggested to the other mothers that we start a rotating group at each others homes because we all got along so well ... This was the foundation for life-long friendships for myself and my son."
- parent

Since 1997, groups of parents and young children have been coming together, all across BC, to share rhymes, songs and stories at Parent-Child Mother Goose Programs. This simple, free program which brings parent and child together to create and enjoy songs and rhymes has been repeatedly demonstrated to have profound, enduring effects on the families and the children that participate. The joyful use of rhyming, storytelling and song that forms the core of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program fosters parent-child attachment and builds a strong foundation for children's language acquisition, early learning and literacy.

The evidence is clear: participants benefit through strengthened parent-child relationships, through enhanced parenting-skills repertoires, through stronger relational networks that allow children to grow and thrive in the early years.

What has been missing are the voices of the participating families and teachers. So to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Parent-Child Mother Goose program in BC, we asked parents, teachers, and others who have been involved in the Parent-Child Mother Goose program to tell us their stories. What, in their experiences, were the strengths and benefits of the program? Did they see lasting effects in their own families, or in their work or personal lives, as a result of having participated in the program?

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... Singing and Rhyming continued ...

The answers we received were heartening. We heard from parents who had participated in the program many years earlier, who told us about the enduring friendships their families formed with other participants, and the connections that they built in their communities through the program. We heard from teachers who repeatedly witnessed parents connecting with their babies and young children in new and deeper ways as they shared rhymes and stories and learned a fresh and joyful way of relating through a shared enjoyment of language. We heard about how the effects of the program spilled over into other areas of the participants' lives, strengthening and enhancing their relationships with their other children and family members, as song and rhyme became a vital part of their family life.

This survey demonstrates that there is a tremendous level of satisfaction with the program on the part of parents and program teachers, and offers a picture of a vibrant program, clearly greatly appreciated by parents, teachers, and others in many communities across British Columbia.

To read the full report, see: <http://bccf.bc.ca/>

A Hindi Story: Akbar and Birbil

A Hindi story told by Rajesh at the Highfield program in Etobicoke, ON.

~ Translated by Farah Zafar.

One day Birbil was late to meet Akbar. He apologized but said he had been taking care of a baby. Akbar scoffed at him, "Looking after a baby is not hard! What do babies need? Just give it a cookie or a toy. That is all they need, all they want. That is no reason to be late."

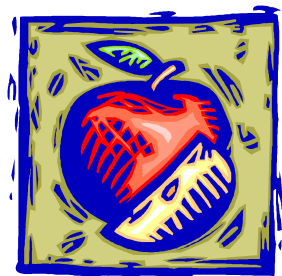
"You only say that," said Birbil, "because you don't have a baby. Let us play a game. I will act like a baby and you try to take care of me."

Akbar agreed so Birbil started to act like a baby. He wailed until Akbar offered him something to eat. Akbar cut up an apple for him, slicing it nicely and taking off the peel, but when he saw it, Birbil said, "I don't want it like that. I want a whole apple."

So Akbar gave him a whole apple.

"No, not like that," said Birbil, "I don't want it whole. I want it cut up."

But when Akbar gave him the apple slices he did not want those either. They went on like this until Akbar lost his temper and spoke to the "baby" in a loud voice. Birbil burst into tears and wouldn't stop crying. Akbar sent the baby away but Birbil had made his point.



... Rhymes from Across the World ...

A well-known Hindi/Urdu Rhyme

Muchli ka batcha
(Fish Baby)
Pahnee se nickla
(Came out of the water)
Papa nay pakara
(Daddy caught him)
Mummy nay pakaya
(Mummy cooked him)
Subnay khaya
(And everybody ate it)
Baramaza aya!
(And it was great fun eating it!)



The Wind Wheel

Wheely run and catch the wind
Wheely, wheely turning quickly
Did you hear my wheely sound?
Did you see it go around?
Wheely, wheely turning quickly
Wheely run and catch the wind.



S Windredli

Redli renn und fang der Wind
Redli, Redli trüll di gschwind!
Ghörsch mis redli surre
gsesch es umepfurre?
Redli, Redli trüll di gschwind
Redli renn und fang der Wind

- a Swiss German rhyme

Zo rijdt een damespaard

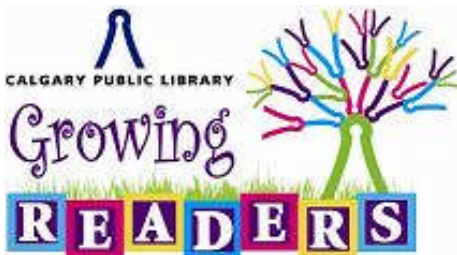
Zo rijdt een damespaard,
een damespaard,
een damespaard,
Zo rijdt een damespaard,
een damespaard rijdt zo.
Zo rijdt een herepaard,
een herepaard,
een herepaard,
Zo rijdt een herepaard,
een herepaard rijdt zo.
Maaaarr.....Zooooo.....
Rijdt.... een..... boerekol
een boerekol,
een boerekol,
Zo rijdt een boerekol,
een boerekol rijdt zo.
En...toen....was....er....een....
GAT IN DE WEG!!!!

This is the way a lady's horse rides
a lady's horse rides
a lady's horse rides
This is the way a lady's horse rides
A lady's horse rides this way
This is the way a gentleman's horse rides
a gentleman's horse rides
a gentleman's horse rides
This is the way a gentleman's horse rides
A gentleman's horse rides this way
But....this....is....the...way...
the farmer's horse rides
the farmer's horse rides
the farmer's horse rides
This is the way the farmer's horse rides
The farmer's horse rides this way
And.....then.....there.....was.....a.....HOLE
IN THE ROAD!!!!

- a Dutch rhyme

... Mother Goose Across Canada ...

P-CMGP® at the Calgary Public Library



As a part of the early literacy initiative, "Growing Readers for Life", the Calgary Public Library has expanded program offerings for babies, young children and parents. Besides exposing children to books and library resources, rich language experiences are incorporated into these new programs. We were anxious to take that a step further and include P-CMGP® in our offerings; an entirely oral program that enhances early literacy skills through interaction. Our first program was offered in the late spring of

2008 and held in one of our 17 branch locations. It filled very quickly with a diverse group of moms, grandparents and babies; we were surprised to see that some of them had travelled from neighbourhoods on the other side of the city to attend. What a wonderful time we had! More than half of the participants were English language learners. We had two grandmothers, and one set of grandparents who came faithfully. The remainder were moms. The first week, we had 37 people, not including the two facilitators, making it a slightly chaotic and active experience.

The parents, grandparents and children learned traditional Mother Goose rhymes, action rhymes, tickles, bounces, songs and oral stories. Following the snack each week we cleaned up then launched into a lullaby. The most popular lullaby was Yo Te Amo, which we sang every week, even when introducing new ones. We learned this lullaby in Chinese, Japanese, French and English over the course of the session. One little 2-year old Chinese-speaking child went home after Week 3 and began singing it. Her father asked her mother (in Cantonese) what she was saying and was absolutely amazed to hear that she was singing in Spanish!

The first P-CMGP® at CPL was an unqualified success. The adults who took part absolutely loved it. They gained confidence, learned skills and had fun with their children. They talked about instances where they had used the rhymes and songs while trapped in grocery store line-ups with a fussy child, or travelling by car or airplane. They enjoyed the social aspects, and some exchanged emails and phone numbers on the last week. They were impressed with the knowledge and expertise of CPL staff and thrilled that the library was offering the program.

Comments included:

"Fabulous program – we are going to miss coming. It is a VERY welcoming environment!"

"We both look forward to the social aspects of the program. Learning all the songs and rhymes helps us entertain ourselves without books."

"This area has a huge demand for this type of services. There are a lot of people whose first language is not English. This program is a wonderful program for parent and child to sing English songs which is a good chance to expose them more to English. We're so happy to have this program in our neighbourhood."

We offered two programs in the fall, with similar successes. At one of them we had moms whose first languages were Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Romanian and Russian. As a result, we all learned rhymes in these languages, teaching each other the words and practising them on subsequent weeks. It is very empowering for the moms to hear the entire room reciting a rhyme in their first language.

...P-CMGP® at the Calgary Public Library continued ...

One Mandarin mom was very quiet, with a tiny little boy with whom she had little obvious interaction. She didn't really participate in the first weeks, holding her child facing away from her, not looking into his eyes or talking/communicating with him. By the 4th week, we could see a change, and by the 7th week, she was totally participating, tickling her tiny son, bouncing him, repeating the rhymes and joining in on the songs. We saw a reaction in him too. He was only 7 months old, and at the beginning sat quietly, gazing at the activity around him with an almost surprised look. By Week 7, he had learned to clap his hands, made eye contact, and began to grin and wiggle in response to his mom's attention.

A solid connection developed between staff facilitators and the parents. They began to correspond by email, sending each other words to the rhymes in other languages, or forwarding photos and comments. We had extra guests join us; visiting grandparents and dads. We had several moms saying their husbands wanted to come to a program, demonstrating that moms and children were taking the rhymes and songs they were learning home, and showing Dad.

Again we got great feedback from the parents:

"Just wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for the hard work you put in putting the program together - I have to say, it's one of the highlights of our week and it's been fantastic watching my son get more and more in to it (and more and more out of it) as each week passes. Looking forward to Tuesday's session already!" (this came in an email)

"It has made me feel closer to my child and it has given me creative ways to entertain her while driving or waiting in line at stores. She loves it and sings all the songs and rhymes while playing."

Based on the successes of 2008, expansion was planned for 2009. We hosted a two-day teacher training at the end of last year, facilitated by Jane Cobb. Eighteen library staff received the training and have started their apprenticeship at the nine P-CMGP® programs we are now offering in Calgary. Seven of them are in library locations and two of them are off-site. It seems that with Calgary's current baby boom (10,000 babies born in 2006 alone) nine programs are not enough. Registration day was crazy. All programs filled immediately, with one filling in 10 minutes. We registered 15 to 18 children in each program, and accepted a waiting list. There are approximately 100 spots available, and currently there are 96 babies on the waiting list! In response, and to support the library's early literacy initiatives, we hope to further expand the number of programs we are offering in Calgary in the coming months.

Submitted by: *Diana Villeneuve*
Early Literacy Advocate, Calgary Public Library

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](mailto:Nancy.Thurston),

Communications Committee Animator: nancy@ns.aliantzinc.ca

Newsletter edited by Giselle Carter

- Mother Goose News -



Mother Goose at the Family Resource Programs Canada Conference

Representatives from the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program are presenting at the upcoming *Family Resource Program Canada (FRP) Conference in Niagara Falls, ON*. The conference runs from May 12 to May 15 2009. Their session called The Power of Storytelling with Families and Young Children will be held from 9am to noon on Wednesday, May 13th.

To find information on the conference the FRP website is: www.frp.ca/
or call 613-237-7667 ext. 23.



Mother Goose at the Toronto Festival of Storytelling

Teachers from the Toronto Parent-Child Mother Goose Program will be telling stories at the Bata Shoe Museum on March 28th and 29th 2009 as part of the Toronto Festival of Storytelling and we also offered story sets at the Word on the Street Festival in Queens Park in September. These one-time events are different from the program itself but we are proud to bring multicultural programming and to introduce some of our wonderful teachers (and a parent) to these events. We hope that some of our participants will attend!

www.torontofestivalofstorytelling.ca

Office News

We are sorry to announce that Ainsley Skye, our Workshop and Office Manager-Toronto Region, will be leaving the position on January 30th, to take a full-time position elsewhere. Many of you across the country will have encountered her when booking workshops and know that we have benefited greatly from her enthusiasm, her generous spirit and her efficiency during her short stay with us. Ainsley, we wish you all the best in your new ventures and hope to stay in touch in the future!

We want to extend a warm welcome to our new Office and Workshop Manager, Natalia Crowe. We are looking forward to working with you Natalia! Natalia can be reached for information about our resources or workshops at mgooseadmin@bellnet.ca

Ruth Danziger, Parent-Child Mother Goose,
Toronto

Please keep in touch with us:

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Administrative Assistant
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Toronto, ON M5S 2R4
416-588-5234; fax: 416-588-1355
national@web.net

- Upcoming Teacher Training Workshops -

British Columbia

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- Vancouver, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, March 6 & 7, 2009
- Contact: Allison Merton, 604 435 0323, amerton@cnh.bc.ca
- Smithers, Smithers and Area Child Care Resource and Referral, March 7 & 8 2009
- Contact: Shannon Cote, 250 847 8824, smicrr.manager@telus.net



Ontario

TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

- Toronto, National Office of the P-CMGP
- April 17 & 18, 2009, May 29 & 30, 2009, September 25 & 26, 2009, November 13 & 14, 2009
- Contact: 416 588 5234 x 21, mgoose@web.net

STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS

- Toronto, National Office of the P-CMGP, March 7, 2009, October 16, 2009
- Contact: 416 588 5234 x 21, mgoose@web.net

- Highlight: Mother Goose Gathering -



The Milton Ontario Early Years Centre hosted a gathering of Parent-Child Mother Goose Program teachers on November 17th 2008. Teachers attended from Milton as well as from Mississauga, Highfield Community Enrichment Project and Elmbank Community Centre programs in Etobicoke and the Davenport Perth Early Years Centre Program in Toronto. Two facilitators from the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program came to answer questions and share news. There was some great sharing of rhymes, in particular rhymes from various languages that program teachers knew or had heard in their programs.

Membership Information

Become A Member of the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program®!

- A strong membership demonstrates that our 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

But what kind of member should I be?

Program & Agency Members \$35.00 (includes international members)

- Receive three electronic newsletters each year
- May use the registered trademarked name and logo
- May photocopy newsletters or articles from the P-CMGP®
- Receive results of research and professional studies of the program
- Receive notification of special events and new publications
- May attend Annual General Meeting and elect the National Council Members
- Send us regular reports to help us advocate for the program and to plan for new resources and training
- Receive electronic copies of our brochure to assist with program promotion and outreach
- Your P-CMGP program is posted on our website for others to find!



Friends of Mother Goose (interested individuals who are not affiliated with a registered Parent-Child Mother Goose Program) \$25.00

- Receive 3 electronic newsletters each year
- Receive invitations to events and announcements of new publications
- May attend our Annual General Meeting and elect the National Council Members

Contact Person _____ Agency _____

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Memberships are paid yearly January-December.

This membership is for the program year: 2009

Payment Method: Cheque Visa Money Order

Name on Credit Card: _____

Card number: _____ Exp. (MM/YY): _____

Signature: _____

I enclose the annual membership fee of \$ _____

I wish to make a donation of \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Charitable Registration Number 859460842

cuddle ... communicate ... connect