

Family Literacy

Family literacy refers to how families (children, parents and extended family members) use reading, writing, numeracy, creating, and communicating to play, learn, and work together at home and in their community.

Family literacy is about families developing relationships. This happens through the interactions and work of everyday life, celebrating special occasions, and maintaining home language and culture. Family literacy values life-long learning for all members of the family.

Why it Matters...

Family literacy builds on family strengths, language, culture, and community. Family literacy activities provide opportunity to increase confidence, knowledge, and skills that are transferable to home, work, and community involvement. Family literacy participation may serve as a springboard to greater personal development.

Family literacy

- connects family members through shared learning experiences, family history, culture, and traditions,
- provides meaningful opportunities for parents and caregivers to strengthen their ability to support children in language development and literacy skills such as, reading and writing,
- provides adults with a gentle way to examine their own literacy needs and to expand positive parenting skills, and
- strengthens self-esteem, self-identity, and cultural expression.

“No single narrow definition of family literacy can do justice to the richness and complexities of families, and the multiple literacies, including often unrecognized local literacies that are part of everyday life.”

Many Families, Many Literacies: An international declaration of principles,
Denny Taylor, (1997).



Saskatchewan Literacy Network

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