

For the **Love** of Reading

A booklet for your reading journey
together with your child

From baby to 9 years old and beyond



Saskatchewan
Literacy
Network

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Introduction

This resource is for anyone who works with and cares for young children. The word "parent" is inclusive of all those who contribute to the development and lifelong learning of children.

Remember that no two children are alike. No two parents are alike. Your child will learn and grow at his own pace.

Parents are a child's most important teachers. As your child's first teacher, you can provide opportunities that will give your child a love of reading. Read to your child every day. Let your child see you reading.

This booklet gives a few suggestions on how to help your child discover the love of reading. It also lets you as a parent know why you are so important in the life of your child.

“ We teach our children many things; most of all, we can teach children the fun of growing and learning together. ”

*Open Doors to Family Literacy Project,
YWCA of Prince Albert*



How to help your child learn:

Talk about what you are doing

Look your child in the eyes

Listen as your child talks

Read to your child each day

Talk about the story

Praise your child

Share one new word, song, craft or activity every day

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Tips on Reading Aloud

- Make reading fun
- Take 15 minutes every day to read to your child
- Talk about who wrote and illustrated the story
- Read slowly with lots of Expression
- Help your child relate to the story by asking questions like: "How would you feel if...?" or "What would you do if...?"

How can you get books?

- Borrow them from the Library
- Borrow them from a friend
- Buy them from a store
- Order them from book catalogues
- Buy them from garage sales or flea markets
- Suggest books as gifts from family and friends
- Make your own

Babies to one year old

Parenting and literacy

Your baby loves to be held and talked to in a gentle voice. Watch how your baby responds. She will let you know how she feels with her body and her face. You can introduce your baby to reading and books right away. Since your baby loves the sound of your voice, it is a good time to tell stories and sing songs to her. It is not important that you sing well but it is important that you sing.

Babies learn through all their senses: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. Grasping and chewing are important ways for your child to learn about the world around her.

Repeat, repeat, repeat an activity with your child because this is how she learns.

Any time is a good time to talk or sing with your baby: bath time, changing her diapers, feeding her, or when she wakes in the middle of the night. Singing to your baby is calming for baby and for you.

Don't play with babies all the time. They need to have time to themselves. Quiet cuddle time is good at bedtime.

Books for this age:

Black & White by Tana Hoban

Sing a Song of Mother Goose by Barbara Reid

Splish, Splash, Baby! by Karen Katz

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox

Welcome Song for Baby by Richard Van Camp

Touch and Feel or vinyl, cloth or board books

A message from your child:

I love:

- books with pictures and bright colours
- chewing everything
- listening to you sing and talk

I feel special when:

- you sing your own songs and tell me nursery rhymes over and over again
- you play finger, toe and body word games with me
- you give me vinyl, cloth and board books to look at and chew
- you tell me what we are doing and what you see around us



Toddlers - Ages one and two

Parenting and Literacy

Toddlers learn a lot in a very short period of time. What a great time to introduce them to the world around them!

Toddlers love stories about themselves, especially stories about what they are doing. They like stories about washing the dishes, putting on their shoes, going shopping. They will love story time, especially if you read books with big words like "BAM" and "ROAR" and "WE ALL FALL DOWN".

Children love "lift the flap" books. They may need your guidance to care for books. Treat books well and children will copy you.

Books for this age:

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin Jr.

Moo, Baa, La La La by Sandra Boynton

Time for a Hug by Phillis Gershator and Mim Green

Time for Bed by Mem Fox

Where's Spot by Eric Hill

Touch and Feel or board books

A message from your child:

I love:

- to learn new sounds and new words
- to play singing and clapping games
- to hear stories and songs that you make up
- to look at picture books at home and on the go

I feel special when:

- you name things and people around me
- you show me how to gently turn the pages
- you read to me and let me turn the pages
- you ask me simple questions as you read
- you have books in the car, in the diaper bag and by the bed



Three years old

Parenting and literacy

Your child has accomplished a lot and is developing many new skills and abilities. He is beginning to feel very independent. Your child will love to explore the world. Every corner you and your child turn will be a great adventure.

Your child's attention span is growing, so he can spend more time listening to you read to him. Bring books to life by acting out the story or giving voice to the characters.

Children like repetition and parts of the story they can join in "reading", for example "I think I can, I think I can" from *The Little Engine That Could*.

Provide crayons, pencils, paper, scissors, glue sticks and other materials for children to use.

Have newspapers to cover the floor when using glue and paints, so there is less mess to clean up.

Books for this age:

Blue Hat, Green Hat by Sandra Boynton

Doing the Animal Bop by Jan Ormerod

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

by M. Rosen and H. Oxenbury

Red is Best by Kathy Stinson

The Wheels on the Bus by Maryann Kovalski

Books with counting, shapes, colours or opposites

A message from your child:

I love:

- to learn and do finger plays and action rhymes
- to sing songs
- to play pretend games
- to hear fairy tales and fantasy stories
- to hear about animals doing things my family and I might do
 - to be silly
 - to try to use crayons, pencils, scissors, etc.



I feel special when:

- we take trips to the library
- we explore our world and the world around us together
- we talk about the pictures
- we act out parts of the story
- I see my art work hanging on the fridge
- we make and do things together



Four years old

Parenting and literacy

The four-year-old child's world is expanding. She is pushing the boundaries of everything and will ask endless questions. What an opportunity to teach your child what her place is in the world! This can be done through your family stories, photo albums and books about other people, places and things.

Some four-year-olds have a lot of fears. They like hearing about scary or silly situations that end safely. Take time to comfort your child when she is scared.

Your child needs simple, predictable, repetitive stories so she can repeat them and "read" the story to you. Even though your child's attention span is increasing, she still needs short stories with lots of action. Let your child know that other people have the same experiences she does. Help her see the difference between imagination and reality.

Begin collecting recyclable materials for making crafts with your child.

Books for this age:

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

If you give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura J Numeroff

Something From Nothing by Phoebe Gilman

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Zoe and the Fawn by Catherine Jameson

Books with predictable or repetitive patterns

A message from your child:

I love:

- to tell stories and "read" books
- to be busy
- to go to places like the park or the mall
- to hear my favourite stories
- books about new and familiar things
- to play matching and simple board games
- to hear about silly things
- to see my name

I feel special when:

- you let me pick the story you will read to me
- you let me "read" to you
- you answer my endless questions, even if they seem silly to you
- you listen to me
- you play games with me
- you make crafts with me
- you help me learn my colours and numbers



Five year olds

Parenting and literacy

A five-year-old has a longer attention span than younger children and is ready to look at a wide variety of books. Your child can decide what he would like to read. This is the beginning of a child developing his own "taste" in books. The five-year-old is getting ready for school or is in school. Keep up your daily reading with your child, and soon, very soon, your child will be reading to you.

Start showing the words on a page to your child. Use his own words to make a story.

Let your child help when he can.

Take your child to the library and encourage him to borrow books from the school library as well.

Books for this age:

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

Clifford Makes a Friend by Norman Bridwell

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn

Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett

Two Pairs of Shoes by Esther Sanderson

Books that your child chooses

A message from your child:

I love:

- to make my own choices about what we read
- to tell stories about my world
- to use my imagination
- to help you cook and make special meals

I feel special when:

- you tell me stories using puppets and pictures
- you collect books for me
- you point words out to me
- you write the story I tell you
- I get my own library card
- you take the time to cook with me and help me read the recipe



The school-aged child— six to nine years old

Parenting and literacy

Your child is now going to school. Remain actively involved. Read to your reader. Let your reader read to you and to other family members.

Know what is happening at school. Get to know your child's teachers. Volunteer. Ask questions. Show that education is important to you.

Balance is important. Remember that play is learning, too!.

Limit TV time.

Have a centre with all the supplies your child needs to be creative.

Serve good food and see that your child eats enough. Make sure she has breakfast before going to school.

Excellent authors for this age:

Arnold Lobel

Bernelda Wheeler

Beverly Cleary

Don Freeman

Jan Brett

Mo Willems

Paulette Bourgeois

Robert Munsch

Stan and Jan Berenstain

Tomie dePaola

Your Child's Favorite Author

A message from your child:

I love:

- to show and tell you everything I do at school
- to read books on my own and with you
- to try new things
- to know that you value my school and me

I feel special when:

- I see you at my school
- we read stories about kids like me
- you help me learn new things
- I have a time and a place to do my homework and I know you care
- you tell me that I'm doing well or you are proud of me and the work I'm doing
- you let me play and grow because I still need fun



If you think you are not a good reader:

- tell stories about your experiences and memories
- tell stories about the pictures in a book or photo album, making up the stories as you go along
- sing songs or recite nursery rhymes that you have learned
- get books on tape
- take your child to story time at your local library
- ask someone else to read to your child
- improve your own reading skills. Look in the yellow pages of the phone book under LEARN.
- contact the person or organization who gave you this booklet



**Be gentle and patient,
both with yourself and your child.**

This booklet is part of a series:

- For the Love of Reading
- For the Joy of Learning
- For the Success at School

Contact us...

- for more information
- to get more copies of these booklets for you and your program
- to learn about these booklets in other languages



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