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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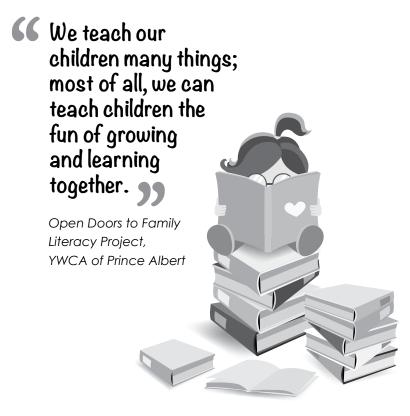
Introduction

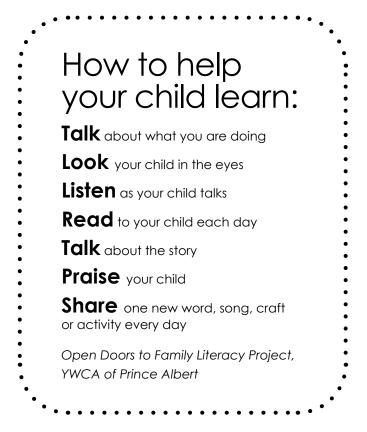
This resource is for anyone who works with and cares for young children. The word "parent" is inclusive of all those who contribute to the development and lifelong learning of children.

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.





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

l love:

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



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

l 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

- 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

l 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.

- 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

l 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

- 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

l 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

- 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 childsix 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

l 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 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



Saskatchewan Literacy Network

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