

Early Literacy Facts:

- Literacy skills begin early in life and are critical to a child's health, behaviour and school success. (*The Early Years Study, 1998*)
- Reading to children more than once a day increases their future school skills and children who are exposed earlier to books have better math skills. (*National Longitudinal Survey of children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997*)
- Children who are read to several times a day at ages 2-3 yrs., do better in kindergarten than those who are read to only a few times a week or less. (*National Longitudinal Survey of children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997*)
- Simple things like reading and telling stories to a child 18 months stimulate brain development in the early years. (*The Early Years Study, 1998*)
- Children need to hear 1000 stories read aloud before they begin to learn to read to themselves. (Mem Fox)
- A child who knows 8 nursery rhymes by the time they are 4yrs. old, will learn to read easier. (Mem Fox)
- Research has documented the vocabulary of children at the age of 3. Findings indicate that the children with larger vocabularies were better readers and performed better at school.
- By grade 8, average Canadian children will have spent 12,000 hours in front of the television. They will have seen 300,000 commercials and more than 8,000 murders.
- Children spend an average of 500 hours a year in a car.
- Children learn listening skills, vocabulary and language skills, as well as develop imagination and creativity, when read to by a caring person. (*Family Literacy Foundation, 2001*)
- It is extra important to read to children at the "reading slump times" that occur when a child enters kindergarten, at grade 4 and when a child enters high school.
- In an average Canadian Community only 25% of children visit their local library.
- When children enter school ready to learn, major social problems such as low literacy skills, poverty, unemployment, crime and abuse can be substantially reduced. (*The Early Years Study, 1998*)