

Literacy Activities/Events

Family Fun Night/Carnival - Invite children and their families to participate in a literacy and/or numeracy family night. Various stations are setup in a multi purpose room. Community partners are invited to set up displays. Door prizes are a must.

Family Game night - 1+1=Fun - Organize a game night where families can play popular board games, such as, Yahtzee, Candyland etc..
Not only fun, but also helps to build basic math skills.

Pajama Party - Host a bedtime story night where families are invited to dress in their PJs and bring in their favourite reading buddy (stuffed animal) and favorite book.

Let's LEARN, let's EAT - Based on a book such as "The Little Red Hen (makes a pizza). Families prepare supper together, learning as they go along.

Dalmatian Party - Celebrate "101 Reasons to Read" with a Dalmatian Celebration. Read for 101 minutes. Write songs, poems, and stories about dogs. Invite a local veterinarian or dog trainer to be your special reading guest.

Olympic Party - Have children set out reading goals and give out gold, silver, and bronze medals.

Have a Book-nic - Organize an indoor picnic featuring books and delicious treats. Choose a theme around family food and reading preferences; for example, enjoy honey-flavored cereal while reading Winnie the Pooh stories.

Around-the-world Party - Award mileage based on the number of pages read (for example, one page = one km). Children might keep track on a world map of the places they read about.

"Hats off to reading" Party - Children create fun hats to wear or wear their favorite hats.

"Here's the scoop on reading" Party - Children celebrate reading success with a sundae party.

Beach Party - Children bring rubber rafts, inner tubes, beach blankets, and beach chairs. They dress in summer clothes.

Reading Campout - Set up tents in the play area. Children can bring in their sleeping bags and read by flashlight.

Host a "Family Read-In" - How many families can come together in one space to read together.

Invite grandparents for an alphabet soup lunch.

Have a Cat in the "HAT" Day

Meet me Under the Reading Tree.

D.E.A. R - host a Drop Everything and Read Event

Reading Buddies - Partner two groups of children of different reading levels together and schedule meetings for the buddies to read books, draw pictures related to the story, or look up information about the author.

Drive in - Partner with a Honda or another car dealer (Honda is a FLD corporate sponsor) and organize a car-themed storytelling session to be held in their showroom.

Book Weigh In - Partner with a local car dealer and organize a book-weighing event. The goal is to get enough books donated to equal the weight of a vehicle. Request that local community members bring in as many books as they can. Following the event, books can be donated to a local organization.

Wall of Fame - Designate a wall in your centre to display photos of children/families along with lists of their favorite book and author.

Caught in a Web of Reading - Decorate a designated wall with white string in the design of a big spider's web. For each book read a cut-out paper spider is added to the wall. Each spider contains information on the book and the name of the child who read the book.

Invite children to submit photos of themselves in their favourite reading/learning place, post on a bulletin board.

Create a group newspaper with each child submitting material. A large scrapbook could be used to showcase paintings, drawings, photographs, as well as articles about group activities. Name the paper, design a logo and interview people for articles.

Art and Authors - Stories can be inspired by many different things, even from a painting or photo. Give each child a piece of artwork and have them write/tell a story that centers around the illustration.

Monster Masks - Read aloud a monster story that includes a good description of the monster. After reading the story, have children create their own visual of a monster out of paper plates, construction paper, paint and string.

Q & A Contest - Coordinate a contest in which the questions and answers are trivia from a chosen author or book.

Poster Contest - Organize a poster contest by asking children to design a poster expressing the theme of the ABC CANADA Family Literacy Day® tagline for the current year. (Ex: Read. Write. Surf. Sing. Together.) or themes like "What I learned from reading" or "Where my imagination took me".

Giant Crossword - Create a giant crossword puzzle with clues to be displayed on a wall of your centre. Encourage families to have some fun by solving one of the clues upon arrival.

Who am I? - Make up signs on pieces of paper, each with the name of a person, place or thing on it. A sign is put on each player's back with tape and then each player asks the other players questions to determine who (or what) he or she is.

Surfing Safari - Use an atlas to find a country you would like to visit, then surf the Internet to find some interesting things about that place -- customs, food, weather, anything at all. Write a story and draw pictures based on what you have learned. You could even post a map of the world on a wall and use push pins to identify the places you have been.

Read all about it - Hold a reading contest where families are asked to keep track of all the books they read together as a family for one week. The family who reads the most together wins a prize.

Assign each child a letter of the alphabet and have them decorate it with things that start with that letter. Display the letters in your office, the library, or other areas in the community.

Alphabet Loop - Organize an alphabetical scavenger hunt. This can be done by asking children to seek out items that begin with each letter of the alphabet. If certain letters cannot be found, take the children outside to expand your search!

Oral story telling - Have children tell you what they would do if they were someone important or famous for a day (ex- a school principal, a singer, the mayor, or the Prime Minister). Write or record their story.

Rhyming Bingo - Play a game of Bingo in which children look for words/pictures on their game card that rhyme with the word being called. For example; if the word "float" is called, then children can mark words/pictures such as "boat," "goat," on their game cards. Play other variations of bingo: letter, number shape, animal etc...

Sound Effects - Organize a play where children make the sound effects of a story being narrated by a teacher or another child. Children can use their voices, hands, feet, or props to make the sounds.

Munsch Illustrated - Pick one of your favorite Robert Munsch books to read aloud to the group, and then ask the children to illustrate their favorite part of the story.

Who is the Author? - Put together a list of children's book titles. Ask children to find out the corresponding authors' names and some background information on them using popular online search engines.

Around the World in Eighty Books - Select age-appropriate books from around the world for your group. Give the children passports to be stamped for each region they cover.

Online World Tour - Ask children to do an online search on a country or a city that they would like to visit. Post their research and a large map in the room so that the children can pinpoint where they have been and learn about places other children have researched.

Have children/families design and create a literacy themed mural to display in your community.

Guest Speaker - Invite a local publisher/author/illustrator to speak with your group.

Guest readers - invite special guests/parents to drop in unexpectedly to read or tell their favourite story to the group.

Partner with a local restaurant/business. See how you can work together to support a Literacy event?

Host a "Learning Breakfast" for adults that feature local celebrities/athletes sharing their experiences with reading, or an early literacy specialist providing tips on how to encourage reading at home.

Host a "Books for Breakfast" event for families, providing breakfast, good books and a special guest reader!

Workshop- Organize a workshop for parents, offering tips and suggestions for reading and learning with their children, as well as activities to encourage learning in the home.

Family make 'n take workshop - families come together to make literacy crafts together ex- books, reading pointers, puppets etc...

Read a t-shirt day - Children/parents/ staff all wear a t-shirt that has letters, numbers, or shapes on it.

Or- Distribute plain T-shirts and fabric paint and ask children to decorate. Favourite sayings could be posted so children could copy.

Hold an indoor "Teddy Bear's Picnic". Children can bring their favorite bear and listen to stories about bears and other animals. Make sure to have some bear-friendly snacks.

Host a Reading Circle: for more info visit:

<http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/programs/children/circle.htm>

Contact local celebrities (athletes, politicians, firefighters, and police officers) to be a part of a reading circle event.

Organize a read-a-thon.

Plan a scavenger hunt, using clues found in a variety of books. Partner with the library.

Karaoke Night - Host a night of karaoke for parents and children in an auditorium, cafeteria, or gymnasium. Not only is this a fun event, but it also encourages reading, singing, and family involvement.

Just say it, "Happy Family Literacy Day" record it on an answering machine, proclaim it on the daily announcements, send an e-mail, post a sign, change your billboard etc....

Borrow the "Reading Tent" from the OEYC.

I pledge - Families, parents or children pledge to

READ³

Everyday (by signing a contract)

Have a costume party where adults and children come dressed as their favorite storybook characters.

Organize a tour of the local library so children can learn how to use the library system and obtain library cards.

Hire an entertainer: Puppeteers, musicians etc.

Host a story chain event. Write "once upon a time" on a large roll paper and invite each child/family to contribute one sentence/picture to the story. Later, cut into pages and use as a big book.

Create a list of classic stories and new favorites to give to parents at an event. The library may have booklists/bookmarks to give to you as a resource.

Literacy Backpacks - filled with children's books, puzzles, games, cards, etc. These backpacks, full of activities, can be signed out by children and taken home to encourage family literacy. Families can use backpack journals to record their activities.

Open the Door to Reading - Decorate a door as a book.

Musical Books - Chairs are placed back-to-back in a straight line, place a book under each chair. Every child sits on a chair. The children march around the chairs as the music starts. When the music stops the children sit down and begin to read the book under their chair. After a few minutes, the music starts again. After the game, the instructor puts the books in a special box marked "Musical Books" so that the children may later read the rest of the story.

Vegetable, animal, mineral - Think of a vegetable, animal or mineral and ask your families to guess what you are. You can give them a total of five clues, which can be conveyed in different ways: verbal clues such as saying what letter the word begins with, or describing what 'your home' might look like; pantomime an action; draw a picture; sing part of a song, etc. The person who guesses correctly takes the next turn trying to stump the group.

Readers for Tomorrow - Make "Readers for Tomorrow" by creating picture books, laminating them, and giving them as gifts to newborns at the local hospital. Include a letter to the parents telling them the importance of reading to their young children in order to instill a love of books early. The books can be stories written or donated by children.

Reading - It's a Piece of Cake! - Make a "title cake." Have your recipe visible and let the child help add the ingredients. Then, on a small piece of paper have each child write down his/her favorite book. Fold the title strips several times, add to the cake batter, and bake. Each child will enjoy discovering a title in his/her piece of cake. The children might enjoy trying to guess whose favorite book title they had in their piece of cake.

Books on Tape - Children choose five simple reading books to tape for children in the hospital who are too young, too tired, or too sick to read on their own.

"Picture" Books - Take a picture of each child holding/reading his/her favorite book and attach a short summary of the child telling in his\her own words why the book is so special. Laminate and display. Children and parents can read about classmate's selections and expand their knowledge of exciting books to read.

Provide literacy tips in a newsletter.

What year is it? Read for 2007 seconds.

Send out a January/February calendar with a family literacy activity for each day.

Organize a book swap.

Start a book club - Challenge everyone to read the same book during the holiday season/January and then meet on Family Literacy Day®, January 27, to discuss the book. It may be so much fun you'll want to hold two or three throughout the year.

Watch a book - Set up a book-and-movie group where a book will be read and discussed, and then the film version will be watched. There are many good titles, both for adults and young people, which have been made into films.

"You've Got Mail" - With adult supervision, have children go online and find a suitable electronic postcard to customize and send to a loved one.

Author, Author! - Create a family journal by interviewing family members and writing down favorite jokes and stories from your kid brother, father, mother and great Aunt Edna.

Reading auction - Auction off "reading dates" for adults and children, with local celebrities to raise money to buy books. On the "date" the celebrity and participant could read together or discuss their favorite books.

Mile-High book drive - Organize a book drive to see if you can collect enough gently-used books to stack as high as the library or partner with your local Honda dealer and see if you can fill a +van full of books. Add the books to your collection or sell them and use the proceeds to buy new books.

Create a literacy quilt - Have local, crafty sewers create a literacy-themed quilt to be auctioned off to raise money for your organization.

Whip up a recipe book - Create a recipe book of favorite recipes supplied by members of your group. Make several copies, figure out a price for the book and put it on sale. You could even invite a local celebrity chef to your book launch.

Have a FLD draw - basket filled with literacy related items or literacy type food items - pasta, cereal, shape crackers etc. Ballot must be filled out by the child.

Collect new or gently used books to donate to a children's program. Donate to the OEYC toy lending or to IMAGINATION ink. who currently has a "Books for Children" campaign.

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