



## HELLO PARENTS,

Parents who read instill in their children a fundamental value: the pleasure of reading. Reading to children encourages intellectual and linguistic development, increases critical thinking, expands vocabulary, and stimulates creativity. A child who reads learns from a young age to question and understand the world. Parents can model good reading habits to their children and teach by example. In this newsletter, you can find fun and interesting activities that will encourage your child to read.

## ACTIVITIES

### INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

#### TALK, SING AND READ

Your voice can soothe and delight. Babies pick up inflections and gestures, and repeat the sounds they hear. They start to understand storytelling at a young age. Talk to your baby throughout daily routines, sing and do gestures as you sing, make up stories as you interact with your child, and read stories before bed time.

[Click here](#) for a bedtime story for your baby.

[Click here](#) for ideas to learn and play together with your baby.

### TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

#### READ TO ME!

##### MATERIALS:

- Your child's favourite book with beautiful illustrations

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Make reading aloud to your child a part of your daily routine.
- Give your child books to look at, touch and hold. Allow them to turn the pages, look through the holes or lift the flaps.
- As you read aloud, stop now and then point to letters and words; then point to the pictures they stand for. Your child will begin to understand that the letters form words and that words name pictures.
- As you read, ask few simple questions about the story.
- Point to things in books that your child can relate to (for example, "Look at the picture of the cat. Do you remember the cat we saw outside?").

[Click here](#) to read a book about a dog named Biscuit.

[Click here](#) for reading tips for parents of toddlers.

### PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

#### STICK AND STONE – RECREATE THE STORY

##### MATERIALS:

- A stick
- A stone
- Props (objects from around the house)
- Imagination

##### DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to read the story "Stick and Stone" by Beth Ferry.
- Search objects mentioned in the story and have your child re-tell the story.
- Join them in story telling and follow their lead as they tell you their story.

[Click here](#) for an activity on letter sounds.

[Click here](#) to practice sounding the alphabet.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR  
SUGGESTIONS TO [CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG](mailto:CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG)

### JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

#### RHYMING BINGO

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencils/markers
- A ruler
- A bowl

##### DIRECTIONS:

- With your child, make a list of different rhyming words (for example: hat, bat, mat, sat, cat).
- Make two BINGO cards using a pencil, paper and a ruler. Write words from the list in the squares.
- Cut one card into squares (with one word in each square), fold them and place in a bowl.
- One person picks a word from the bowl and the rest of the players find the words on their cards and circle them with a pencil or a marker.
- The first player to get five in a row wins!

[Click here](#) to read a rhyming story "I Want a Monkey!" by Daniel Errico.

[Click here](#) for strategies on learning how to read.

### SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

#### WHAT IS MISSING?

##### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Books or other text

##### DIRECTIONS:

- Each player gets a sheet of paper and signs their name.
- Ask each player to copy one paragraph from a book or other source, skipping 2 or 3 words. Make a note of the missing words on a separate piece of paper.
- Switch papers between players. Take turns reading the paragraphs and guessing the missing words.
- Players award themselves 1 point for every word they guessed that means the same, or almost the same, as the actual word. Players get 2 points if they guess the actual missing word. The player with the most points wins.

[Click here](#) for more reading games.

[Click here](#) to read "The Kiss That Missed" by David Melling



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

#### A TIP FOR TODAY

How to encourage your child to read:

- Give them freedom of choice.
- Read in creative spaces: create a reading nook, take a book outside, make a tent and read inside, etc.
- Include reading time in your daily schedule.
- Open the doors to digital reading.
- Be interested in their reading.
- Boost their imagination by encouraging them to write their own stories.
- Read bed time stories daily.