



VIRTUAL CHILDCARE PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VOLUME #49 CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY CANADIAN AUTHORS

HELLO PARENTS,

Reading stimulates children's imagination, improves their language skills, and allows them to learn about the world. Canada has many writers and illustrators who create excellent books for children. These books, available from our local libraries or in bookstores, will motivate your children to read or maybe even write their own stories. In this newsletter, we provide examples of great Canadian books for all ages, and activities inspired by them.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

OCEAN IN THE BOTTLE

[Click here](#) to read "Baby Beluga" by Rafi.

MATERIALS:

- Plastic bottle
- Small plastic fish (you can make your own by cutting some out from a plastic container)
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the bottle with water.
- Add a plastic fish into the bottle.
- Close the bottle tightly and secure the cap with tape.
- Let your baby explore the fish in the water. Make comments and sing "Baby Beluga" as your child is exploring.

[Click here](#) for more songs by Rafi.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

BATH TIME FOR A BABY DOLL

[Click here](#) to listen to "Alligator Pie" by Dennis Lee.

MATERIALS:

- Baby doll
- Container
- Washcloth
- Soap (optional)
- Hand towel

DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child to fill the container with water.
- Add soap to make bubbles (optional).
- Put the doll and the washcloth inside the container. Let your child wash the doll.
- When finished, help your child gently wrap the doll in a towel. Rock the doll to sleep while reading the story.

[Click here](#) for a list of Canadian books for young children.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

MAKE A DOG PUPPET

[Click here](#) to read "Sterling, Best Dog Ever" by Aidan Cassie.

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Paper bag
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child cut eyes, mouth and ears out of construction paper and glue them onto the paper bag.
- Use markers to add details to the dog's mouth and paws.
- Next time you read the book, use the dog puppet as a prop to act out the story.

[Click here](#) to read "Something from Nothing" by Phoebe Gilman.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

PACK YOUR BACKPACK

[Click here](#) to read "Franklin Goes to School" by Paulette Bourgeois.

MATERIALS:

- Backpack
- Notebook
- Markers
- Hand sanitizer
- Face mask
- Favourite toy

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and make a list of things they will put in their backpack.
- Help your child write each item on the list and have them draw a picture next to it.
- Talk about safety precautions and the need to use a face mask and hand sanitizer.
- Use the list to pack the backpack together.

[Click here](#) to listen to "The Nutmeg Princess" by Richardo Keens-Douglas.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

MAKE A SYRIAN DISH FROM EGGPLANT

[Click here](#) to read "Salma the Syrian Chef" by Ahmad Danny Ramadan.

MATERIALS:

- 1 eggplant
- 1 small tomato
- ½ cup parsley leaves
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 spoon of olive oil
- ½ cup pomegranate seeds
- ½ cup walnuts
- Pinch of salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS:

- Use the eggplant that is already baked.
- Chop all ingredients (except olive oil and pomegranate seeds) and place them in a bowl.
- Mix well.
- Drizzle with some extra olive oil. Enjoy with pita bread.

[Click here](#) to learn how Canadian authors, brothers Eric and Terry Fan, worked together on writing and illustrating their book "The Night Gardener".

[Click here](#) to listen to "Mustafa" by Marie-Louise Gay.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PLEASE, SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CHILDCAREMAIN@NCCE1.ORG

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Visit the Canadian Children's Book Centre ([click here](#)), a national, not-for-profit organization that promotes reading, writing and illustrating of Canadian resources for children, and get help in selecting the best Canadian books for young readers.
- Visit local public libraries and ask a librarian for books by Canadian authors.
- Visit the Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation ([click here](#)) to find literacy-oriented, fun and enriching activities for children of all ages.