



HELLO PARENTS,

Language development is a critical part of a child's development. It supports the ability to communicate, express and understand feelings. It also supports thinking, problem-solving, developing and maintaining relationships. Learning to understand, use and enjoy language is the critical first step in literacy, and the basis for learning to read and write. In this newsletter, we provide activities that will encourage your child to learn the language and love it.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

MAKE A PHOTO BOOK

MATERIALS:

- Photos of your child and family
- Index cards or cardboard cut to the size of your photos
- Glue
- A short piece of yarn

DIRECTIONS:

- Glue photos of your child and the important people in their life onto cardboard or index cards.
- Make a hole in the upper left corner of each card and tie them together with a short piece of yarn.
- Share the book with your child.
- Encourage your child to turn the pages, point to the people on the pictures, and "read" the book.
- Be an active reader or responsive listener, and exchange ideas with your child.

[Click here](#) to listen to "You Are (Not) Small" by Anna Kang.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

VOCABULARY WALK

DIRECTIONS:

- Take your child on a walk through your living room, neighbourhood, the grocery store, etc.
- As you walk, choose a category of objects you want to focus on, such as types of furniture in your living room, animals found in your neighbourhood, or vegetables your child can see at the grocery store.
- Point to a few objects and name them aloud. Give your child time to listen to each word and repeat after you. For example, "Couch... Ottoman...Coffee table...".
- Remember to speak clearly and slowly, and keep this activity short and sweet.
- Follow your child's lead and repeat the words your child says.

[Click here](#) for more language development activities.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

SNOWBALL THROW ALPHABET

MATERIALS:

- Ping pong balls
- Paper
- Marker
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Cut paper into smaller pieces.
- Write one letter on each piece of paper and tape them on a wall.
- Explain to your child how to play this game: the ping pong balls will be pretend snowballs that they will throw at the target letters.
- Call out a letter, encourage your child to look for it on the wall and throw the snowball at it.
- You can also tape some letters high up on the wall to make it more challenging.
- Take turns calling out the letters and throwing the balls.

[Click here](#) for more literacy activities.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Dr. Seuss's ABC" by Dr.Seuss.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

MYSTERY BAG

MATERIALS:

- A collection of various items. For example: stuffed toy, marker, Lego, phone, hat, etc.
- A paper bag or shopping bag
- Scarf

DIRECTIONS:

- Place the items you have gathered in the bag making sure your child does not see what is inside.
- Blindfold your child and let them reach inside the bag.
- Encourage your child to choose one item, feel the texture of it and describe what they feel.
- Have your child guess what they have in their hand.
- Take the blindfold off to check if your child's guess is right or not.
- Set the first object aside and continue taking turns with your child and reaching inside the bag to discover more objects.
- When all the objects are out of the bag, encourage your child to add more descriptive words for each object.

[Click here](#) for more games.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

COMPOSE YOUR ACROSTIC NAME POEM

MATERIALS:

- A pencil
- A piece of paper

DIRECTIONS:

- An acrostic poem uses the letters in a word to begin each line of the poem. All lines of the poem relate to or describe the main topic word. [Click here](#) to see some examples.
- Brainstorm and write words, phrases or full sentences that describe you.
- Write your name down vertically.
- Look at these words, phrases or sentences, choose the ones which begin with the letters in your name.
- Place them on the lines that begin with the same letters.
- Fill in all the lines to create a poem.
- Read your poem and share your thoughts with your friends or family.

[Click here](#) for more poetry games and activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read books as part of your child's daily routines.
- Encourage your child to make choices and follow their lead.
- Ask open-ended questions.
- Name objects in the environment and allow your child to practice repeating each new word.
- Give attention to your child and be at their physical level when they are talking to you.
- Use television and screens sparingly.