

HELLO PARENTS,

Reading with your children has tremendous benefits. Reading aloud with your children at a young age creates excellent literacy habits, and eventually leads to a lifelong love of reading. Reading together with your child will encourage an increase in vocabulary, language development, and communication skills. When children read, they expand their imagination and learn about their world. In this newsletter, you will be provided with activities which will highlight the importance of reading, and help you to raise a reader!

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

LET'S READ!

MATERIALS:

- Your infant's favourite books

DIRECTIONS:

- Take out a few of your infant's favourite books.
- Sit with your infant, at the table or on the floor, facing each other.
- Begin reading to your infant aloud and with expression. Make your voice higher and lower when it is appropriate, or try to use different voices for various characters. Do not worry about finishing the entire book, just focus on pages that you and your infant enjoy.
- Encourage your infant to flip through the pages while you are reading.

[Click here](#) to read "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

FELT STORY FUN

MATERIALS:

- Several pieces of different coloured felt
- One large piece of felt
- Black and colourful markers
- Scissors
- Your child's favourite book

DIRECTIONS:

- Choose your child's favourite book, and begin by tracing the important characters and images in the story onto the felt.
- Using scissors, cut the tracings of the characters and images.
- Decorate the characters with your child by adding eyes (if necessary), clothes, etc.
- Once you are finished creating the felt characters, you will be able to stick them onto the large piece of felt.
- Sit with your child on the floor, and begin to read their favourite book with them.
- Put the felt characters on the large piece of felt, as you read the book.
- Enjoy this visual reading experience!

[Click here](#) to read "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

ILLUSTRATE YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK

MATERIALS:

- Storybook
- Pencil
- Stapler
- Paper
- Coloured pencils or markers

DIRECTIONS:

- Ask your child to choose a story.
- Read the story together. Encourage your child to ask questions. For example, if you are reading the book [The Three Little Pigs](#), you may ask: "What do you think is going to happen to the little pigs?"
- Once you are finished reading, bring out the paper, pencil, and coloured pencils.
- Start reading the book again, this time stopping after every page or two, and asking your child to draw what the story says. For example, ask them to draw three little pigs.
- Once they are finished drawing, you may staple the pieces of paper together to create a story.
- Give your child the book they have made, and read it together!

[Click here](#) to read "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreas and Guy Parker-Reese.



JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

STORY-TIME FLASHCARDS

MATERIALS:

- Index cards or paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Storybook

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child choose their favourite book, and encourage them to read it to you.
- Once they are finished reading, ask your child names of the characters, places, or things, which were in the story.
- Split your index cards in half. On one half of the index cards, have your child write the names of the characters, places, and things from their chosen story.
- On the other half of the index cards, have your child draw the images of the names they have chosen.
- Help your child with writing or drawing, if needed.
- Once they are finished, lay all the cards on the table, face up.
- Have your child match each word to the corresponding picture.
- Every time they match a word to a picture, ask your child how the character, place or thing etc. is relevant or important to the story.

[Click here](#) to read "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

STORY AUDIOBOOK

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencil

DIRECTIONS:

- [Click here](#) to make a free account on Spotify to begin listening to audiobooks.
- Have a discussion with a friend or family member and talk about what your favourite chapter book is, and why.
- Go on Spotify, and type the book name followed by the word audiobook in the "search" box. For example, "The Wizard of OZ audiobook".
- Listen to the audiobook.
- Once you are finished listening to the audiobook, write what the difference is between reading a book and listening to one. Is it easier to read or listen to a book? Did it take you longer to finish reading the book or listening to it?
- When completed, discuss your findings with your friends or family members.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Make reading aloud to your child a part of your daily routine. You may choose a time of day to read to your child, such as bed time.
- Give your infant sturdy board books to look at, touch, and hold. Allow them to turn the pages, look through the holes, or flip the flaps.
- Ask your child to choose what they would like to read. They will feel more interested in the story if they have picked it out themselves.
- Sit close together when you are reading. Reading together is a wonderful opportunity to bond with your child.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Give your child space to reflect upon the book, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Visit your local library together. It is always fun choosing new books to read.
- Have a family bookshelf. If you are able to, have bookshelves in your child's bedroom, too.