



## HELLO PARENTS,

Literacy is how we communicate with others via reading and writing, but also by speaking, listening, and creating. Literacy plays an important part in all aspects of life and learning. Family literacy activities strengthen the relationship between family members, improve communication and encourage lifelong learning. Family Literacy Day is celebrated in Canada each year on January 27th. This year, the theme of Family Literacy Day is "Learning in the Great Outdoors". We invite you to celebrate the day by engaging your whole family in literacy-based activities outdoors.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT LITERACY

- When you read for 20 minutes a day, you will have read 1,800,000 words per year.
- Children who read 1,000,000 words per year are in the top 2% of reading achievement.
- Reading is the fastest way to build vocabulary. Children learn 4000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- Every book counts. If you read just one book a day to your child, it will add up to 1825 books by their 5th birthday.
- Books contain 50% more rare words than prime-time television.
- A child needs to hear 1000 stories before they will learn to read, and hear a word 250 times before they will remember it.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### ABC SCAVENGER HUNT

#### MATERIALS:

- Camera/cellphone

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Go with the whole family for a walk.
- Search the neighbourhood for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. For example: A - alley, B - bark on a tree, C - clouds, etc.
- Take photos of the objects that you have found.
- Together, look at the pictures and take turns telling a story and incorporating the objects from the pictures into the story.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

### CHALK HEARTS AND KINDNESS WORDS

#### MATERIALS:

- Sidewalk chalk

#### DIRECTIONS:

- You can do this activity on your driveway or on a sidewalk.
- Have your child use chalk to draw a heart shape and add words of kindness, love, and encouragement for others. For example: "Keep smiling", "Be kind", "Love your family", etc.
- Encourage your child to practice writing the words.
- Decorate the words with hearts and other designs.

[Click here](#) for family-friendly literacy activities.

## CREATE A NATURE JOURNAL

#### MATERIALS:

- Notebook
- Pencil
- Glue
- Camera or cellphone
- Art supplies

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Take a camera with you whenever you and your family head out on an outdoor adventure.
- As you explore the great outdoors, observe and take photos of plants, animals or things that interest you. Collect natural objects, such as fallen leaves, seeds, twigs, etc.
- Encourage your family members to record in the notebook their experiences with nature using whatever medium speaks to them. For example, they can write their thoughts, feelings, ideas, and observations related to the natural world.
- If your child is too young to write, ask them to draw pictures related to their adventure and then write down what they tell you without editing.
- Add pictures, poetry, song lyrics, flowers, leaves, and other specimens that are meaningful to you and related to your experience with the outdoors.
- Enjoy sharing with and listening to each family member's unique stories that they have recorded in the nature journal.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

[Click here](#) for more information about Family Literacy Day.



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#### TIPS FOR TODAY

- Ask your child questions about the story you are reading to ensure comprehension.
- Create a special reading place in your home, with your child's favourite books within reach.
- Read often and be a good role model for your child.
- Make every day a learning day. Ask your child to make a shopping list, read recipes together or help them make a calendar of their weekly activities.