



September 2008

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EARLY LITERACY

What is Early Literacy?

Early Literacy is what children know about reading and writing **before** they can actually read and write. Research shows that children get ready to read years before they start school. You can help your baby and toddler learn important skills **now** so they can become good readers.

- ⚙ Babies begin to learn language from birth. Reading aloud exposes children to the sounds of human speech.
- ⚙ By the age of two, children know between 300 and 500 words. Children who are often spoken and read to learn more words and develop into better readers.
- ⚙ Sharing books with your baby lays the foundation for learning to read.

PARENTS ARE SO IMPORTANT IN HELPING THEIR CHILDREN GET READY TO READ BECAUSE . . .

- You know your children best.
- You know when your children are relaxed and in the mood to learn.
- You can help your children learn reading skills in ways that are easiest for them.
- Children learn best by doing things – and they love doing things with you. Take every chance you have to read with your children, tell and talk about stories, say nursery rhymes, and sing songs.

Ask your librarian for the titles of books to read to your children and about children's library programs.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Stop...drop...and read

Anyone, anywhere, anytime

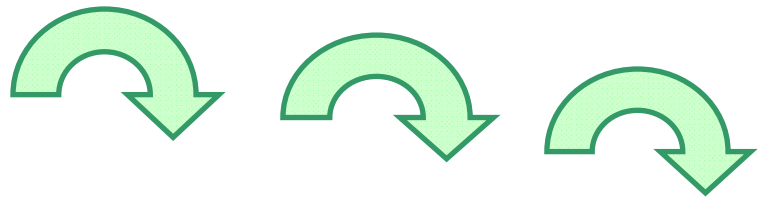
Monday, September 8, 2008

TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- Encourage your child to select their own books to read.
- Ask your child to repeat a verse in a nursery rhyme.
- Keep a variety of reading materials in your home and let your child see you reading.
- Read and sing to your child every day.
- Read, talk and sing to your child in the language you know best!

Communities for Kids is a coalition of three early childhood development initiatives including Success by 6® and Understanding the Early Years. We promote optimal health and development of all children, from conception to age 6, in the South Okanagan-Similkameen.

Free programs for families and children 0-6



NURSERY RHYMES ARE LEARNING TOOLS! THEY HELP WITH. . .

Language Skills - by introducing new words and how to pronounce them.

Reading Skills – in most finger plays, hands move from the left to right, the order of the written word in English.

Math Concepts – by counting.

Creativity - when adults encourage children to guess a word or make up their own rhyme, the child's sense of self is strengthened and their confidence increases.

Fine & Gross Motor Skills – many rhymes encourage the use of fine (fingers and toes) and/or gross (arms and legs) motor skills.

For more information on early literacy, visit: www.caringforkids.cps.ca and click on *Growing and Learning*
www.abundantassets.org and click on *Resources*
www2.literacy.bc.ca and click on *Family Literacy*

STRONGSTART AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

Princeton
John Allison Elementary
499 Corina St.
250-295-6727

Keremeos and Area
Cawston Primary
517 School Rd., Cawston
250-499-2441

New – Mid September

Osoyoos
Osoyoos Elementary
8507 – 68th St.
250-485-7018

Oliver
Oliver Elementary
10359 – 356th St.
250-485-4290

OK Falls
OK Falls Elementary
1141 Cedar St.
250-809-2802

Penticton
Queen's Park Elementary
330 Power St.
250-770-7680

Summerland
Giant's Head Elementary
10503 Prairie Valley Rd.
250-770-7671

New – October 2008

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAP-C)

Princeton
56 Kenley Ave.
250-295-3186
Princeton Family Center

Keremeos
701 - 3rd St.
250-499-7714
South Similkameen Family Center

Osoyoos
8506 - 92nd Ave.
250-495-6581
Osoyoos Baptist Church

Oliver
35025 - 119th St.
250-498-2538
Word of Life Centre

Penticton
1295 Manitoba St.
250-493-0512
Boys and Girls Club

RAISING AN ENGLISH READER WHEN YOU SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE

- Sharing books in any language with your child is just as important as sharing English books.
- Look at picture books and make up your own stories about the pictures.
- Tell stories in your language. This helps children get used to the patterns of language.
- When you are out in the community, point to and talk about signs and symbols, such as pictures on washroom doors, house numbers, store names and logos.
- Remember to have fun with your child when reading and learning.

Adapted from information provided by Caroline Pennelli of Literacy Now!

Communities for Kids Fourth Annual Parenting Conference is coming to Keremeos on October 25, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.

For more details, check our website at

www.communitiesforkids.ca

The Understanding the Early Years initiative is funded by Human Resources and Social Development Canada. For further information, visit www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

**Send comments, suggestions, ideas and questions to communitiesforkids@telus.net or call 250-496-5511.
Please feel free to copy and pass along this newsletter**