

Family Literacy Week Planning Guide

Week of January 27

School-Age

Revised
for 2007

- Literacy Activities
- Supporting Events
- Resources/Contacts



An initiative of the Early Literacy Sub-Committee - Kingston and Area Early Years Coalition:

Ontario Early Years Centres: Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington; Kingston and the Islands

Public Libraries: Kingston Frontenac; Lennox and Addington

School Boards: Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District; Limestone District

Ontario Early Years Literacy: Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington; Kingston and the Islands

Kingston Literacy

Lennox and Addington Resources for Children

Community Members

Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27 and was originally created by ABC Canada. Typically, it is a one-day event to encourage family participation in literacy activities (e.g., Family Story Times, Storytelling Programs, Read-a-thons, Family Literacy Nights, Book Fairs, Special Visits to the Public Library).

This year, consider planning a ‘Family Literacy Week’ for the children in your program or class. This guide outlines a wide variety of activities, events and resources to support your efforts.

Please refer parents to the Family Literacy Week Calendar.

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Guide to Celebrating Literacy Week for Children, Ages 4-6 Years

Please help us continue to make this guide a valuable resource for schools and teachers by going to this link to fill out our short survey:
<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=484597>

4-6 Yrs	Literacy Activities	Supporting Event	Resources/Contacts
Listening	<p>Puppet Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make finger puppets to retell a favourite story at home • Provide a puppet play or poem for children to take home • Set up puppet-making (cloth, sock, paper bag, popsicle stick, felt) or story-telling stations (e.g. sequence card stories felt/clothespin stories) 	<p>Family Literacy Day Puppet /Music Show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, present a show at your site • Ask families to use the puppets their children bring home to stage a puppet show • Invite in children’s authors or illustrators (e.g. Wallace Edwards, author of Alphabeasts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poem, Five Little Monkeys, and finger puppet templates are available in PDF format at: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org ↳ Click Resources ↳ Click Family Literacy Week (Day) • To arrange a visit with Wallace Edwards or with other Kids Can Press authors or illustrators call (416) 925-5437 # 140 or e-mail: publicist@kidscan.com
	<p>Dramarama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a prop box that relates to a story that has been read • Encourage children to act out stories for their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of children’s books available for parents about families; remember to include stories about multicultural and non-traditional families • Stage a familiar story 	<p>Books:</p> <p><i>Full, Full, Full of Love</i> by Trish Cooke <i>Me and My Family Tree</i> by Joan Sweeny <i>Bee-Bim Bop</i> Linda Sue Park</p>
	<p>Chatterbox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project a text of a familiar poem on a screen and share it • Have fun speaking loudly, softly, quickly and slowly together • Consider taping this activity • Show parents the Sound Detective Tuesday activity on Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Hold a family event focusing on choral speaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select nursery rhymes, poetry, predictable books, songs and chime-in books 	<p>Chants, Raps and Stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.songsforteaching.com/chantsraps.htm • www.songsforteaching.com/sonjadunn/whatisachant.htm • Sonja Dunn is an educator, storyteller, performer, author, actor and poet. Sonja may be contacted for appearances through: mary@pembrokepublishers.com • Find the online Family Literacy Day story, <i>Name Tags</i>, by Robert Munsch only available from ABC Canada at: www.abc-canada.org/fl-d-f/eventcoor/nametags.shtml
	<p>Draw & Tell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an overhead projector or chart paper to encourage children to draw and tell a story to be shared later at home • Show parents the Etch’n Sketch Monday activity on Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Hold a Draw-and-Tell Storytelling Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a special guest to present a story using sound effects, music, computerized visual presentation, or other elements • Learn a Draw-and-Tell story and present it to families 	<p>Draw and Tell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw and Tell Suggestions available at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ www.familyliteracyexpertise.org ↳ Click Resources ↳ Click Family Literacy Week (Day) ○ www.drawandtell.com

4-6 Yrs	Literacy Activities	Supporting Event	Resources/Contacts
	<p>Sit Back & Listen!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add wordless books to your reading area; let the children tell you the story in their own words • While listening to their favourite music, have children make a new title for the song, change the words, add a new verse and more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite parents to a short wordless book “reading session” at lunch or at the end of the day • Have handouts about wordless books available for parents • Highlight literacy through music by hosting a family event with children’s musical entertainers 	<p>Books: <i>Sidewalk Circus</i> by Paul Fleischman & Kevin Hawke <i>The Red Book</i> by Barbara Lehman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Resources on wordless books and music are available at: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org ↳ Click: Resources ↳ Click Family Literacy Week (Day) • Contact Splash N’ Boots through their website at www.splashnboots.com or by calling (905) 637-3051
<p>Reading & Writing</p>	<p>Write on!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make words using a variety of media (e.g. alphabet pasta, play dough, magnetic letters, chalk, icing tube) • Show parents the Alpha-Dough Wednesday activity on Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Writing Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up stations so children and parents can visit various activities (e.g. using magnets, chalk, felt, stamps, crayons, markers, pencils, paper, whiteboards) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the writing process is available for parents at: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org ↳ Click: Resources ↳ Click Family Literacy Week (Day)
	<p>Bookmaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite parents to create a big or small book with their child (e.g. accordion, pop-up, shape, texture, alphabet, wordless) • Provide materials for children to make books on their own to be taken home or donated to the library • Using a cooperative writing strategy, publish stories, poems, songs on the computer 	<p>It’s Great to Be Me!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite author Joanne Langlois in to discuss the theme of inspiration, as well as how words and pictures can create great stories <p>Fairy Tale Magic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold thematic days for story characters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Langlois adapts presentations according to children’s ages, 4-13 years. Contact Joanne at: hayjo@cogeco.ca and see www.bethie.ca • Marilyn Helmer is the author of more than 14 books. Her specialties are fairy tales and storytelling. She visits schools and libraries to share folk and fairy tales, as well as original stories. • http://home.cogeco.ca/~ghelmer1/mghelmer_home.html • For fold-up book instructions, go to: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org ↳ Click Resources ↳ Click Family Literacy Week (Day)
	<p>Story Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell stories in which each child adds the next event to a growing story you start • Show parents the All Aboard Weekend activity on the Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Write It Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the stories on chart paper for parents to read at going home time 	<p>Books: <i>The Cake That Mack Ate</i> by Rose Robart <i>The Napping House</i> by Audrey Wood <i>There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly</i> by Pat Adams</p>

Guide to Celebrating Literacy Week for Children, Ages 7 - 13 Years

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7 – 13 Yrs	Literacy Activities	Supporting Event	Resources/Contacts
Listening	<p>Radio Radio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students produce a radio show or news broadcast based on characters or story events • Students create commercials to promote Family Literacy • Provide opportunities for students to prepare and make Family Literacy Public Awareness announcements • Invite a radio announcer to come in and talk to the class about how their job links to literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a town crier to give a lesson; combine with speech writing & delivery • Create a radio promotion to share with families at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Whyman, with the official designation as Town Crier of the City of Kingston, makes announcements to the public in the traditional Town Crier attire • Available for Grand Opening Celebrations and all manner of special events or functions where pomp and ceremony are needed • Fee: honorarium • Contact him at kingstoncryman@hotmail.com or (613) 384-8277
Reading & Writing	<p>Play Power:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a short play (preferably humorous) that can be photocopied and given to families • Ask family members to take parts and read through the play at home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider inviting local authors, storytellers and illustrators for a special event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CANSCAIP (Canadian Society of Authors, Illustrators and Performers) lists authors who visit schools and libraries -Contact: www.canscaip.org • Scholastic Canada invites children and adults to write to any of their published authors/illustrators -Contact: Author Name, c/o Scholastic Canada Ltd., Markham, ON, L6C 1Z7
	<p>Extra, Extra!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share a variety of newspapers • Inform students that some newspapers come to their home weekly, free of charge • Use the Internet to access national and international newspapers • Check with newspapers for educational resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an activity that can be done by parents and children at home and involves reading or using the free local paper • Identify a community issue and how it relates to you, your family, friends, school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact local reporters and editors • Review websites for additional resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ottawa Sun: www.ottawasun.com - The Kingston Whig Standard: www.thewhig.com - The Globe & Mail: www.theglobeandmail.com - The Toronto Star: www.thestar.com
	<p>Reading as Magic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on books by specific writers (e.g. C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, J.K. Rowling) where magic and wizardry are featured 	<p>Hocus, Pocus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite families to participate in the shared reading of chants, spells and myths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check out these websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan Brett: www.janbrett.com - Kenneth Oppel: www.kennethoppel.ca - J. K. Rowling: www.jkrowling.com

7-13 Yrs	Literacy Activities	Supporting Event	Resources/Contacts
	<p>Rap On! Have students create jazz and rap chants to share at home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a Break Dance / Hip Hop /Jazz instructor to teach the class a dance to go with the chant the students created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jazz Chants for Children</i> by Carolyn Graham • Classics for Kids: www.classicsforkids.com/shows/jazz.asp • PBS Kids: www.pbskids.org/jazz/ • Songs for Teaching: www.songsforteaching.com
	<p>Bookmaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a cooperative writing strategy, publish stories, poems, songs on the computer <p>Rebus Stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use computers to create rebus stories (i.e. symbols, pictures and words); send them home with children to share 	<p>Writers' Gallery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display students' writing for guests to view and read • Invite author Joanne Langlois in to discuss the theme of inspiration, as well as how words and pictures can create great stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Langlois adapts presentations according to children's ages, 4-13 years. Contact Joanne at: hayjo@cogeco.ca, or through www.bethie.ca • Marilyn Helmer presents workshops for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students called <i>Ideas – Where Do Writers Find Them?</i> Contact her at: mghelmer@cogeco.ca
	<p>Examining Other Cultures: Explore cultures through their literature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, read, discuss, debate • Set up a card writing activity that promotes the value of literacy for all; send submissions out (e.g. to Minister of Foreign Affairs, PM, local politicians) • Encourage families to share in the card writing campaign 	<p>Multicultural Potluck:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an international potluck dinner for families • Ask parents to bring a written copy of the recipe they bring to the potluck • The children can then write a cookbook using the recipes <p>International Food Label Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite a nutritionist to teach the class how to read and use food labels 	<p>Books: <i>Becoming Naomi Leon</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan <i>Last Days of Africville</i> by Dorothy Perkins <i>Initiation</i> by Virginia F. Schwartz (upper age range) <i>The Conch Bearer</i> by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni <i>Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada's Food Guide: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/food-guide-aliment/index_e.html
	<p>Basketball & Books/Hockey & Hoops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and discuss literature related to sports and games themes • Have students write stories, their impressions, their ideas • Create game boards with instructions to follow 	<p>Pizza Party/Family Games Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play games (e.g. Scrabble, Pictionary or a popular sport), followed by a reading activity (e.g. a scavenger hunt; indoor orienteering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Literacy Games Night Training www.familyliteracyexpertise.org/Training/training.htm • Consider partnering with your local Boys and Girls Club • Check out these websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Football: www.playfootball.com - Women in Sports: www.makeithappen.com/wis/ - Hockey: www.exploratorium.edu/hockey/ - Sports: www.factmonster.com/sports.html