

Guide to Celebrating Literacy Week for Children, Ages 0-3 Years

0-3 Yrs	Literacy Activities	Supporting Event	Resources/Contacts
Listening	<p>Music Mania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Sound Games: Close your eyes. Can you guess the sound? • Use Music Circle with songs and finger plays • Encourage parents to sing along with their children to tapes or CDs at home and in the car • Show parents the Clap Snap Tap Weekend activity on Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Host a Musical Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a variety of musical styles, languages and instruments Include familiar and new music <p>Attend Baby Time Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public libraries, Ontario Early Years Centres, Family Literacy or Music/Movement programs (see Culture, Parks & Recreation programs) have information on programs and resources (e.g., Kindermusik of Kingston) • Local libraries have audio resources available for loan
	<p>Introducing Mother Goose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on rhymes, involvement of parents, books for babies • Emphasize interactive story times with toddlers • Show parents the Book Look Thursday activity on Family Literacy Week Calendar 	<p>Mother Goose Visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a visit by someone dressed as Mother Goose to share favourites (include rhymes and songs from other cultures as well) 	<p>Books:</p> <p><i>The Lucy Cousins Book of Nursery Rhymes</i> by Lucy Cousins</p> <p><i>Mother Goose a Canadian Sampler</i> by Celia Lotteridge</p> <p><i>My First Mother Goose</i> by Iona Opie</p>
	<p>Toys & Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce parents to toys that make gentle noises and encourage children to play, explore, discover and learn • Inform them that noisy toys, if too loud or used too much, may cause hearing loss in children 	<p>Toy or Book Fair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a toy/book fair by a company that specializes in toys and books for babies and toddlers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jocus Toys - Discovery Toys - Usborne Books - Pig Tales Books 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloth and sound books by Lamaze and Manhattan Baby are available at book and toy stores • Ontario Best Start Resources at: www.children.gov.on.ca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Click: Parents ☞ Click: Services in Your Community ☞ Click: Beststart (see Special Needs for Speech & Language, Autism, etc.)
	<p>Touchy Feely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have children explore what's inside a container without looking and describe what is felt • Provide books that have sensory qualities to infants and toddlers 	<p>Touch and Feel Bookmaking:</p> <p>www.kingstonliteracy.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Click: For Sale ☞ Scroll to: Family Literacy Bookmaking Club ☞ Download sample (PDF) 	<p>Books:</p> <p><i>Dinosaur's Binket</i> by Sandra Boynton</p> <p><i>That's Not My Bear</i> by Fiona Watt</p>
	<p>Read Me a Book by Barbara Reid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read this book to a group of parents • Encourage parents to borrow it from the library 	<p>Host a Baby and Toddler Book & Blanket Event</p>	<p>Books:</p> <p><i>All Fall Down</i> by Helen Oxenbury</p> <p><i>Counting Kisses</i> by Karen Katz</p> <p><i>Read A Loud Rhymes for the Very Young</i> by Jack Prelutsky</p>

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Listening	<p>Talk for Tots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children learn to speak and develop good language skills by being spoken to and by hearing interesting vocabulary which describes the things in the world that interest them <p>Introduce parents to the notion of sportscasting their activities as they perform routine tasks (e.g. talk through the steps of dressing or going to bed)</p>	<p>Speech and Language Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer a January workshop on early speech and language development through the preschool speech and language program in your area Have handouts available about how to speak effectively with young children so that they develop language skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario Best Start Resources at: www.children.gov.on.ca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click: Parents Click: Services in Your Community Click: Beststart (see Special Needs for Speech & Language, Autism, etc.)
Reading & Writing	<p>Book Wall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start a chart/bulletin board display of favourite children's book titles so that parents can find out about good children's books 	<p>Favourites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite parents and children to bring their favourite children's book from home and read it at circle time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your local library about posting parent book and music reviews
	<p>Where's Spot? by Eric Hill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a story time and activities for toddlers emphasizing lift-the-flap books Use paw-print pathways to lead to each new "Find Where Spot Is" activity Use stuffed animals and 3-D props to play hide-and-seek Spot 	<p>Spot the Dog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own Spot-the-Dog Special Event with readings from Spot books combined with a special appearance by someone dressed as Spot 	<p>Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality lift-the-flaps books: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Peek-A-Boo!</i> by Jan Ormerod <i>Dear Zoo</i> by Rod Campbell <i>Where's Baby's Belly Button</i> by K. Katz <i>Peek-a-Zoo!</i> by M. Torres Cimarusti
	<p>Write On!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage parents to write in front of their children so that children see that writing is an important task, whether it's leaving messages, taking phone messages, writing lists or sending notes Make writing information handouts available for parents (e.g. <i>Shapes Make Letters</i>) 	<p>Writing Fun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create Literacy Day cards for parents and children to write and draw for someone special <p>Label the Centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give parents and children a few index cards and writing materials; ask them to label objects in the room Suggest labeling some objects at home as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The handout <i>Shapes Make Letters</i>, is available in PDF format at: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click: Resources Click: Early Literacy Handouts for Parent Click: Shapes Make Letters (February)