

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

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Click Resources ↳ Click Early Literacy Resources for Parents ↳ Click Monkey Business (November) • 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 	<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
	<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 	<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: www.familyliteracyexpertise.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↳ Click Resources ↳ Click Draw and Tell (April) • www.drawandtell.com

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	<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: Family Literacy Week ↳ Click: Early Literacy Handouts for Parents • 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: Family Literacy Week
	<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 • 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: Early Literacy Handouts for Parents ↳ Click: Make a Fold-Up Book (September)
	<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 	<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>