

# Family Literacy Reflections...

A quarterly publication of the Centre for Expertise in Family Literacy

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## The Inter-generational Transmission of Educational Success

In this issue we feature:

- The role of parental educational success in child development
- Inter-generational transmission factors
- Factors contributing to children's success at school

### A Model of the Inter-generational Transmission of Educational Success

by Leon Feinstein, Kathryn Duckworth and Ricardo Sabates

This multi-faceted British report reviews research pertaining to the role of parent's educational levels in child development. The main focus is children's school success. It is widely believed that educational attainment is the key to equal opportunity in today's society.

Therefore, some important policy questions are:

- Is this true?
- What are the factors that help or hinder children in school attainment?
- Is educational attainment dependent on inter-generational factors?



Research has shown that parent educational attainment is an important factor in children's success at school.

Like literacy acquisition, educational success has inter-generational transmission factors. All children should be encouraged and assisted to be successful learners. Unfortunately, the differences in the ability of families to take advantage of educational opportunities intensifies the disparities in socio-economic status between families and limits the equality of opportunity for many.

It has been found that parent educational attainment is an important factor in children's success at school, but it is not the only one that has an impact. Research has shown that socio-economic status, parental mental health, family size, neighbourhood, and pre-school are a few of the many factors that can impact children's learning and school success. To take this wide variety of research into consideration and to tease out the effects of these inter-relating factors, the writers of this report created a framework to use as an analysis tool.

Family literacy practitioners take heart. At the end of this report several statements pertinent to future government policy are presented.

A few of these statements are as follows:

"... inter-generational transmission of educational success is a key element in equality of opportunity."

"... families are more important than schools as influences of children's development... Yet parents themselves are engaged in multiple contexts that constrain or enhance their interactions with their children."

"The primary call of this report, therefore, is in support of efforts to aid the integration of cross-departmental activities to enhance the effectiveness of educational support."

– Deb Nesbitt-Munroe

#### Family Literacy Program Directory

If you have not already done so, add your Family Literacy program details to the directory that NALD is compiling by following the link to:  
<http://www.abc-canada.org/fld/familyliteracydirectory.shtml>

**A Tour of the Centre for Expertise Website**

[www.familyliteracyexpertise.org](http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org)

Are you looking for some new ideas for your program? Have you had the opportunity to find out what is new on the CEFL website?

We have added a variety of interesting training modules and resources that we hope will be useful and informative. Here are some links for you to experiment with.

**Upgrading Program for Parents with Preschoolers (UPP)**

The UPP program develops parenting strategies and Essential Skills, helping participants reach their personal goals at home, in the workplace and in their communities. There is material to deliver at least 18 sessions of programming effortlessly.

<http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org/Training/upp/uppwelcome.htm>



The UPP program helps parents improve their literacy skills while studying topics related to parenting and a healthy lifestyle.

**Resources for Parents and Caregivers**

The articles you can view under this heading are of interest to anyone working with, or parenting, young children, especially if you are promoting early literacy. Feel free to share the articles via your newsletters.

<http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org/Resources/parentscaregivers.htm>

**The Reading And Parents Program (RAPP)**

The RAPP training module will soon be featured on the website. This module will make it possible for you to start your own RAPP program. Support is always available from CEFL staff.

For more information, call **613-389-0218**.



You can prepare your own RAPP program using materials on the Centre for Expertise website.

**Early Literacy Book Activity Cards**

This is a set of activity cards that has been developed to accompany many well known children's books. Peruse almost 60 titles to find extended literacy activities for parents and children to share together. They have been used successfully in Ontario Early Years Centres, mobile resource lending programs, Healthy Babies Healthy Children's home visitor programs, Children's Mental Health home visitor program, with Children's Aid Societies and Foster Parents, as well as nursery schools and daycares.

<http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org/Resources/Activity%20Cards/BookActivities/activitycards.htm>

Check out our website from time to time for new resources that will help you develop your own programs or for strategies that may help you with program participants.

Go to: [www.familyliteracyexpertise.org](http://www.familyliteracyexpertise.org)