

Books In The Home

Classic Books



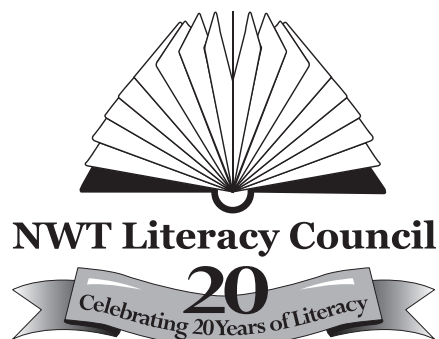
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Contact the NWT Literacy Council to get copies of this resource. You can also download it from our website.



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Introduction

Overview of *Books in the Home* Program

The NWT *Books in the Home* program is similar to other programs used widely in Canada. It is based on the belief that parents are children's first and most important teachers. Parents learn to read and share books with their children in positive and enjoyable ways. It promotes reading and writing of both parents and children.

Learning to read and write is a long process. Children need a variety of experiences to help them with their literacy skills like reading together, listening to stories, rhyming, singing, drawing, painting, playing etc. They also need to have fun and share their ideas with their parents. Parents who have gone through this program have noticed a remarkable change in their relationship with their children.

You can do this program over several weeks. By providing on-site childcare, parents and children can meet separately and then come together to do joint activities. Each week, parents study a children's book and take the book home. They can ask questions about the book and do a craft related to it. As well, parents write a journal outlining goals for the week. At the end of the session, they spend time reading their new book to their children.

The objectives of this program are:

- To create a supportive and encouraging learning environment for parents.
- To provide parents with tools to help their children with reading and writing in the home.



- To promote life-long learning in parents and children.

Some of the benefits of this program are:

- Reading and writing become a part of everyday family life.
- Relationships in families are enriched through spending time with one another reading.
- Parents often become more interested in their own reading and may want to continue with their own learning.
- Stronger communication in families.
- Children learn to love reading and writing.

Overview of Resource Manual

We have developed two *Books in the Home* manuals – Classic Books and Northern Books. In this resource we have developed activities and resources for 10 classic books.

What makes a book a children's classic? The qualities that make a book memorable are great characters, excellent writing, outstanding art work or just plain silliness. Often classic children books remain popular with young readers and children's book professionals generation after generation.

Each book kit has:

- An overview
- A warm-up activity
- A group discussion topic
- Handouts for families
- Information on the author



- A snack idea for the week.

How to Run a *Books in the Home* Program

Here is a suggested format for the program. Take these elements and make them into a program that works for you and your participants.

How many parents are in a program?	8 – 10 parents
How often do they meet?	1 – 8 times
How long is each session?	1.5 - 2 hours

The day before the session:

- Call each parent to remind him/her about the session.



While you are talking to them you can:

- Get an idea of how many people will be at the group the next day.
- Ask parents if they need transportation to the meeting.
- Talk with the participants about the program or other issues.
- Encourage people who may not be coming regularly.
- Call possible new members, if there is room in the group.



The Workshop Format

Introductions

At the start of the session, the facilitator welcomes the parents and children to the workshop. Then the children go to another area with another facilitator where they listen to stories, play games and do activities. The participants then do a Warm-up activity to bring the adult group together.

Group Discussion

If it is an ongoing program, discuss how the previous week's reading and activities went. The facilitator can ask questions like "What did your child like about the book?" or "What kind of activities did you do at home this week?"

At each session the group discusses a topic related to family literacy. Topics are included in each book kit. Some topics are tips for reading, tips for encouraging writing, storytelling, talking to your child's teacher, etc.



New Book

A new children's book is introduced each week that families can keep. All discussion and activities for that week are based on the new book. The facilitator will start reading the new book to the participants and then ask for volunteers to share the reading.

After reading the new book, the group brainstorms activities they can do at home with their child. It may involve drawing, writing, doing crafts and activities with the story. You can also do a craft with parents that they can use at home with their child. Families are given a variety of activities to



take home to do with their child and the rest of the family. There are a variety of handouts for different ages for each book.

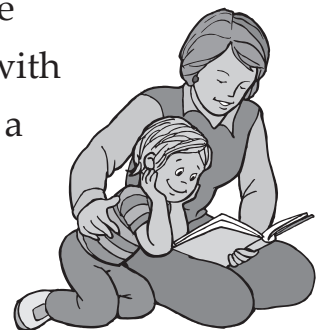
Adult Writing

The adults are encouraged to fill out a weekly action plan for their family. The action plan will help parents plan their time around literacy activities. You can also encourage parents to keep a weekly journal about how things are going at home with the literacy activities. You may want to give each parent a nice notebook to use as a journal.



Story time/Activity Time

This is a time for the facilitator to model story reading to the participants' children. The children join the group and sit with their parents in a circle on the floor. The facilitator chooses a book and reads it to the group. Following this, the parents and their children find a quiet place to read the new book they have been discussing during the session. Parents are encouraged to try some of the strategies and techniques discussed in class.



There may be time to do some rhymes and songs too or even a craft together.

Nutritious Snack

After story time, gather the parents and children together for a nutritious snack. There are suggestions for snacks in each book kit.