

How To Kit



Reading Circles & Story Extenders

Celebrate Family Literacy Day With a Reading Circle

Reading circles encourage parents and other community members to help children become enthusiastic and positive about reading.

How does it work?

In a reading circle, parents, community members and children meet to share stories and books. The focus is on discussion, and the enjoyment of families reading and talking together. Reading circles are a great way to promote reading in the family and community.



Here are some ideas for your reading circle!

- **A reader's picnic:** Pack a lunch and bring your favourite book and read at school with your children.
- **Set up a reading tent** - canvas wall tents work great!
- **Invite a celebrity** to your reading circle: Mayor or Chief, local authors, Fire Fighter, Police Officer etc.
- **Invite elders** to share their stories with the group.
- **Select a theme** for the reading circle. Decorate the room and have the children dress up for the event. For example you could read traditional stories and have children wear traditional clothing.

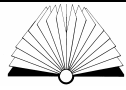
Step to Organizing a Reading Circle Event

1. Find a good location for your reading circle (library, school, community hall, someone's home, church, youth centre).
2. Choose a good time for the reading circle. Saturday afternoon or evenings are usually a good time for families.
3. Advertise the Reading Circle at least one week before the event. Put posters up around the community, advertise on the local radio station, or green screen and hand out personal invitations at the school. Tell everyone about it! Posters and invitations are included in this package.
4. Prepare a reading kit in advance with lots of children's books. The books can be borrowed from the library or school. The NWT Literacy Council lends out reading kits to communities for an extended period of time. The reading kit includes children's books for all ages and support material for the facilitator. *Please call us if you would like to borrow our reading kit.*
5. Find volunteers in the community to help organize and run the program.
6. When people come for the event match up children with adults and let each pair choose several books to read together.
7. In the first half, people read in pairs, small groups or alone.
8. In the second half, people form a circle and take turns talking about the book they read. The facilitator can read another children's book to the group or someone could tell a traditional story.



9. Provide a nutritional snack for the end of the session.
10. It is nice to give out prizes to the children who participate in the Reading Circle. Prizes can be books, pencils, bookmarks etc.
11. Hand out family literacy tips sheets (included in this package) for parents to take home.
12. Ask the local paper to come to your event and do a story about the Reading Circle Event.
13. Thank your sponsors at the event and by writing them a letter.

Make the event monthly and ask the local band office, Co-op, Northern or a local business for donations of prizes.



Celebrate Family Literacy Day

by coming to the

Reading Circle



When: _____

Where: _____

Time: _____

Cost: FREE!!!!

Lots of fun for the whole family
with great **Prizes**.....



Sponsored by _____

Reading Circle



When: _____

Where: _____

Time: _____



*Lots of fun for the whole family with great **book prizes!***

Sponsored by: _____

Reading Circle



When: _____

Where: _____

Time: _____



*Lots of fun for the whole family with great **book prizes!***

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Reading Circle



When: _____

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*Lots of fun for the whole family with great **book prizes!***

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*Lots of fun for the whole family with great **book prizes!***

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Ideas for story extenders:

- make a tape recording of the story together using different voices and sound effects
- make puppets – paper bag, sock, finger, paper plate, stick puppets
- make a memory game based on the story using words or pictures
- do a character study of one of the characters from the story
- make masks
- act out the story
- write to a character in the story
- draw a picture of a character from the story
- make something you saw in the story
- write another ending for the book
- draw a picture of your favourite part in the story
- play a reading game or puzzle
- make a word search for the story
- play a sport you read about in a story
- write a poem
- make a collage or poster
- paint with different things – potatoes, can with string around it, sponges cut into letters, kitchen utensils, handprints, thumbprints
- make thumbprint pictures
- make popsicle stick buildings
- bake something that is mentioned in the story
- make a puzzle by drawing a picture from the story and then cutting it into “puzzle pieces”
- make a scene or setting from a story in a shoe box and place things in rows for the foreground and background to get a 3D effect
- **LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR – ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!**

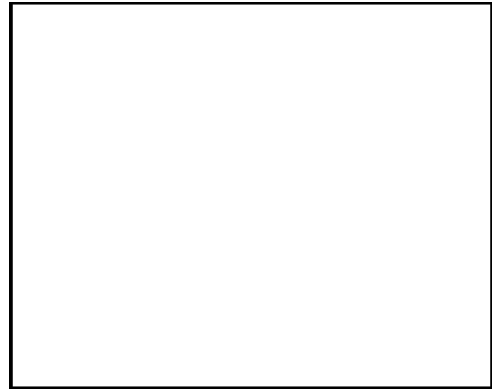
Who Am I?

- Pick one character from the story.
- Draw pictures or write about that character.

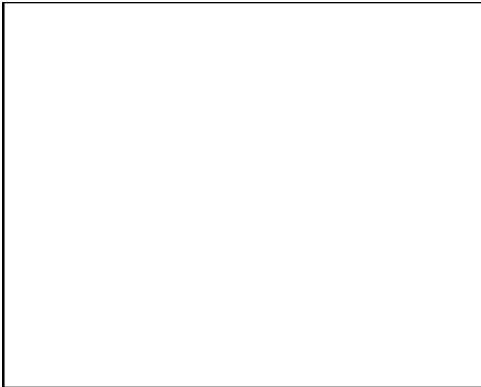
Where do I live?



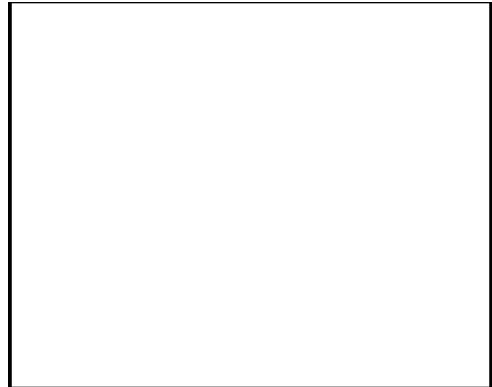
What am I like?



What do I wear?



What do I like doing?



**What happens to me
in my story?**



**Who are my family
or my friends?**



Jigsaw Puzzle for

- Draw a picture of your favourite part of the story.
 - Cut the picture along the lines to make a jigsaw puzzle.



Make Puppets from the Story

Felt Finger Puppets

- Cut two pieces of felt or construction in the shape of the character and the right size to fit over a finger.
- Decorate one side to look like a character from the story.
- Sew or glue the two sides together along the edge.

Cardboard Finger Puppets

- Cut out a finger puppet from cardboard. Make it the shape of the character and cut it out. Now draw and cut two circles near the bottom where fingers fit through and pretend to be legs.
- Decorate it to look like a character from the story.

Popsicle Stick Puppets

- Draw a character or object from the story on stiff paper.
- Glue or tape it to a Popsicle stick

Memory Game for

- Make a memory game by making pairs of cards for each character in the story.
- Draw a picture of a character from the story on one card and write their name on another.
- When your game is ready, put all the cards face down with the “?” facing up. Each player lifts two flaps at a time and tries to find pairs of characters. The winner is the player with the most pairs.

