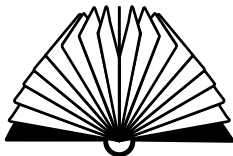


N.W.T. LITERACY COUNCIL

# On The Right Track



**Families  
Growing and Learning  
Together**



N.W.T. LITERACY COUNCIL

# Acknowledgements

The text for this handbook was developed by the Saskatchewan Literacy Network.



The handbook has been adapted by the NWT Literacy Council to give it more northern content.

Printed by the NWT Literacy Council March 2002  
with funding from the Government of the Northwest Territories  
Early Childhood Development Framework for Action

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# Introduction

This resource is for anyone who works with and cares for young children. The word “parent” is inclusive of all those who contribute to the development and lifelong learning of children.

Remember that no two children are alike. No two parents are alike. Your child will learn and grow at his own pace.

Parents are a child’s most important teachers. As your child’s first teacher, you can provide opportunities that will give your child a love of listening to stories and a love of reading. Tell your child a story or read to your child every day. Let your child see you reading.

This booklet gives a few suggestions on how to help your child discover the love of reading. It also lets you as a parent know why you are so important in the life of your child.

“We teach our children many things; most of all, we can teach children the fun of growing and learning together.”

*Open Doors to Family Literacy Project, YWCA of Prince Albert*



# How to help your child learn:

**Talk** about what you are doing

**Look** at your child

**Listen** as your child talks

**Tell** your child a story

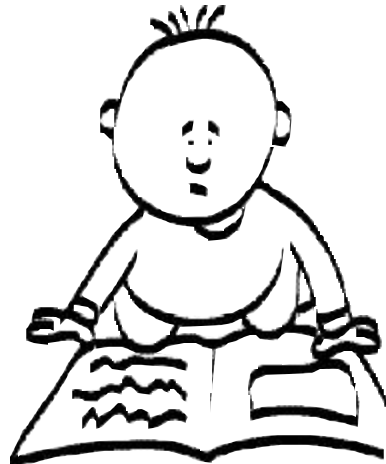
**Read** to your child each day

**Talk** about the story

**Praise** your child

**Share** one new word, song, craft or activity every day

**Use** your Aboriginal language



Open Doors to Family Literacy Project, YWCA of Prince Albert

## Tips on reading aloud

- ☺ Make reading fun
- ☺ Take 15 minutes every day to read to your child
- ☺ Talk about who wrote and illustrated the story
- ☺ Read slowly with lots of expression
- ☺ Help your child relate to the story by asking questions like: "How would you feel if...?" or "What would you do if...?"

## How can you get books?

- ☺ Borrow them from the library
- ☺ Borrow them from a friend
- ☺ Buy them from a store
- ☺ Order them from book catalogues
- ☺ Buy them from garage sales or flea markets
- ☺ Suggest books as gifts from family and friends
- ☺ Make your own

# Babies to one year old

## Parenting and literacy

Your baby loves to be held and talked to in a gentle voice. Watch how your baby responds. She will let you know how she feels with her body and her face. You can introduce your baby to stories, reading and books right away. Since your baby loves the sound of your voice, it is a good time to tell stories and sing songs to her. It is not important that you sing well but it is important that you sing.

Babies learn through all their senses: sight, sound, touch, taste and smell. Grasping and chewing are important ways for your child to learn about the world around her.

Repeat, repeat, repeat an activity with your child because this is how she learns.

Any time is a good time to talk or sing with your baby: bath time, changing her diapers, feeding her, or when she wakes in the middle of the night. Singing to your baby is calming for baby and for you.

Don't play with babies all the time. They need to have time to themselves. Quiet cuddle time is good at bedtime.



### Books for babies:

Stories from your own life and experience

Rhymes and songs

*Zoe's Snowy Day* by Barbara Reid

*Round and Round the Garden* by Sarah Williams

*White on Black* by Tana Hoban

*Happy Moose, Grumpy Goose* by John Clementson

Touch and Feel books or any vinyl, cloth or board book

# A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ books with pictures and bright colours
- ☺ chewing everything
- ☺ listening to you sing and talk

I feel special when:

- ☺ you tell me your own stories
- ☺ you sing your own songs and tell me nursery rhymes over and over again
- ☺ you play finger, toe and body word games with me
- ☺ you give me vinyl, cloth and board books to look at and chew
- ☺ you tell me what we are doing and what you see around us



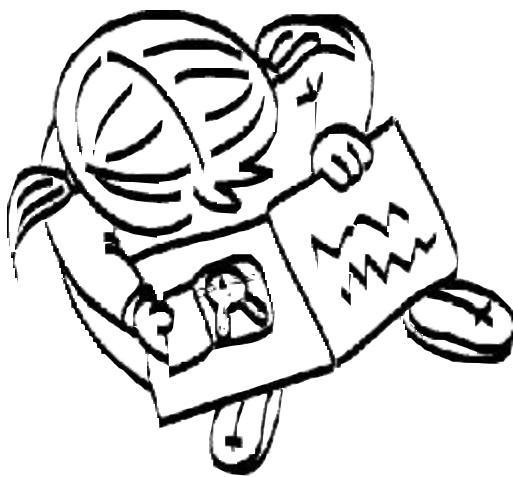
# Toddlers – Ages one and two

## Parenting and Literacy

Toddlers learn a lot in a very short period of time. What a great time to introduce them to the world around them!

Toddlers love stories about themselves, especially stories about what they are doing. They like stories about going out on the land, washing the dishes, putting on their shoes, going shopping, or stories about when they were born. They will love story time, especially if you read books with big words like “BAM” and “ROAR” and “WE ALL FALL DOWN”.

Children love “lift the flap” books. They may need your guidance to care for books. Treat books well and children will copy you.



### Books for toddlers:

Baby books, family albums or homemade family books

*Polar Bear, Polar Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr.

*When Mama Comes Home Tonight* by Eileen Spinelli

*I See* by Helen Oxenbury

*First Words* by Lois Weber

*Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt

*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown

*Do You Want to be My Friend?* by Eric Carle

Touch and feel books, any chubby or board books

# A message from your child:

## I love:

- ☺ to learn new sounds and new words
- ☺ to play singing and clapping games
- ☺ to hear stories and songs that you make up
- ☺ to look at picture books at home and on the go

## I feel special when:

- ☺ you tell me your own stories
- ☺ you name things and people around me
- ☺ you show me how to gently turn the pages
- ☺ you read to me and let me turn the pages
- ☺ you ask me simple questions as you read
- ☺ you have books in the truck, in the diaper bag and by my bed





# Preschool – Three years old

## Parenting and literacy

Your child has accomplished a lot and is developing many new skills and abilities. He is beginning to feel very independent. Your child will love to explore the world. Every corner you and your child turn will be a great adventure.

Your child's attention span is growing, so he can spend more time listening to you read to him. Bring books to life by acting out the story or giving voice to the characters. Your child will also love to hear family stories.

Children like repetition and parts of the story they can join in "reading", for example "I think I can, I think I can" from *The Little Engine That Could*.

Provide crayons, pencils, paper, scissors, glue sticks and other materials for children to use.



Have newspapers to cover the floor when using glue and paints, so there is less mess to clean up.

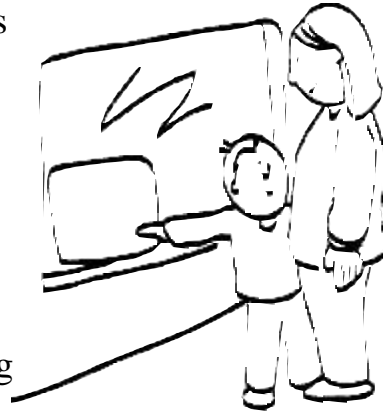
### Books for three-year-olds:

*On Mother's Lap* by Ann Herbert Scott  
*Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara Joosse  
*Clap Your Hands* by L. Bryan Cauly  
*Going on a Bear Hunt*, by M. Rosen and H. Oxenbury  
*The Wheels on the Bus* by M. Kovalski  
*Brave Bear* by K. Mallet  
*Mama Mama* by J. Marzollo  
*Where the Wild Things* by M. Sendak  
Any fairy tale book

# A message from your child:

## I love:

- ☺ to learn and do finger plays and action rhymes
- ☺ to sing songs
- ☺ to play pretend games
- ☺ to hear fairy tales and fantasy stories
- ☺ to hear about animals doing things my family and I might do
- ☺ to be silly
- ☺ to try to use crayons, pencils, scissors, etc.
- ☺ to hear stories about my family



## I feel special when:

- ☺ we take walks in the community
- ☺ we explore our world and the world around us together
- ☺ we talk about the pictures
- ☺ we act out parts of the story
- ☺ I see my art work hanging on the fridge
- ☺ we make and do things together

# Four years old

## Parenting and literacy

The four-year-old child's world is expanding. She is pushing the boundaries of everything and will ask endless questions. What an opportunity to teach your child what her place is in the world! This can be done through your family stories, photo albums and books about other people, places and things.



Some four-year-olds have a lot of fears. They like hearing about scary or silly situations that end safely. Take time to comfort your child when she is scared.

Your child needs simple, predictable, repetitive stories so she can repeat them and “read” the story to you. Even though your child's attention span is increasing, she still needs short stories with lots of action.

Let your child know that other people have the same experiences she does. Help her see the difference between imagination and reality.

Begin collecting recyclable materials for making crafts with your child.

### **Books for four-year olds:**

*Peter's Moccasins* by Jan Truss  
*Red Parka Mary* by Peter Eyvindson  
*The Strangest Sight I've Ever Seen* by Cathy McGregor  
*Mother Raven Nursery Rhymes* by Peter Redvers  
*I Love You Stinky Face* by Lisa McCourt  
*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle  
*Amos's Sweater* by Janet Lunn and Kim LaFave  
*Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?* by B. Wheeler

## A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ to tell stories and “read” books
- ☺ to be busy
- ☺ to go to places like the park or the store
- ☺ to hear my favourite stories
- ☺ books about new and familiar things
- ☺ to play matching and simple board games
- ☺ to hear about silly things
- ☺ to see my name



I feel special when:

- ☺ you let me pick the story you will read to me
- ☺ you let me “read” to you
- ☺ you answer my endless questions, even if they seem silly to you
- ☺ you listen to me
- ☺ you play games with me
- ☺ you make crafts with me
- ☺ you help me learn my colours and numbers

# Five year olds

## Parenting and literacy

A five-year-old has a longer attention span than younger children and is ready to look at a wide variety of books. Your child can decide what he would like to read. This is the beginning of a child developing his own “taste” in books. The five-year-old is getting ready for school or is in school. Keep up your daily reading with your child, and soon, very soon, your child will be reading to you.

Start showing the words on a page to your child. Use his own words to make a story.

Let your child help when he can.

Take your child to the library, if your community has one, and encourage him to borrow books from the school or class library as well.



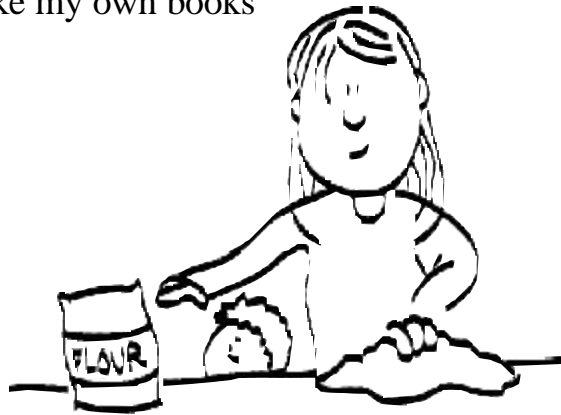
### Books for five-year-olds:

*A Winter Walk With Haley* by Jaya Bastedo  
*Franklin Goes to School* by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark  
*Now I'm Big: Off to School* by Stephanie Longfoot  
*Mama, Would You Love Me* by Eric Carle  
*My Dad Takes Care of Me* by Patricia Quinlan  
*The Little Engine That Could* by Richard Scarry  
*Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus  
*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina  
*I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* by N. Bernard Westcott

# A message from your child:

I love:

- ☺ to make my own choices about what we read
- ☺ to tell stories about my world
- ☺ to use my imagination
- ☺ to help you cook and make special meals
- ☺ make my own books



I feel special when:

- ☺ you tell me stories using puppets and pictures
- ☺ you collect books for me
- ☺ you point words out to me
- ☺ you write the story I tell you
- ☺ I get my own library card
- ☺ you take the time to cook with me and help me read the recipe

# The school-aged child—six to nine years old

## Parenting and literacy

Your child is now going to school. Remain actively involved. Read to your child. Let your child read to you and to other family members.

Know what is happening at school. Get to know your child's teachers. Volunteer. Ask questions. Show that education is important to you.

Balance is important. Remember that play is learning, too!

Limit TV time.

Have a centre with all the supplies your child needs to be creative.

Make good food and see that your child eats enough. Make sure she has breakfast before going to school.



### **Books/Series/Authors for school-aged children**

*Polar Babies* by Susan Ring

*My Mom is So Unusual* by Iris Loewen

*My Kokum Called Today* by Iris Loewen

*Jillian Jiggs* series by Phoebe Gillman

*Berenstain Bears* series by Stan and Jan Berenstain

*Franklin* series by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark

*Arthur* series by Mark Brown

books by Barbara Reid, Joy Berry, Jan Brett, Robert Munsch, Eric Carle, Beverly Cleary

## A message from your child:

### I love:

- ☺ to show and tell you everything I do at school
- ☺ to read books on my own and with you
- ☺ to try new things
- ☺ to know that you value my school and me



### I feel special when:

- ☺ I see you at my school
- ☺ we read stories about kids like me
- ☺ you help me learn new things
- ☺ I have a time and a place to do my homework and I know you care
- ☺ you tell me that I'm doing well or you are proud of me and the work I'm doing
- ☺ you let me play and grow because I still need fun



## **Other things that you can do:**

- tell stories about your experiences and memories
- tell stories about the pictures in a book or photo album, making up the stories as you go along
- sing songs or recite nursery rhymes that you have learned
- get books on tape
- take your child to story time at your local library

**Be gentle and  
patient,  
both with yourself  
and your child.**



**Illustrations by Janet Pacey**

# Aboriginal Language Books

Here are some places that may have Aboriginal language books:

your local school or early childhood program

the Aboriginal language coordinator for your language group

the teaching and learning centre (TLC) for your region (see below)

Dogrib TLC

Bag Service #1

Rae-Edzo, NT X0E 0Y0

867-392-6377

Deh Cho TLC

Box 376

Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0

867-695-7305

Gwich'in TLC

Box 54

Fort McPherson

867-952-2377

Sahtu TLC

Box 64

Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0

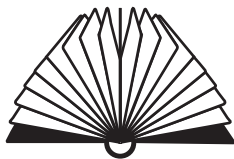
867-587-3461

Inuvialuit Cultural & Resource Centre

107 Mackenzie Rd.

Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

867-777-2595



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