

Centre for Family Literacy
Ruth Hayden Family Literacy Practitioner Award

Background

The Centre for Family Literacy established the Ruth Hayden Family Literacy Practitioner Award to recognize accomplished individual practitioners and the family literacy field as a whole.

The late Dr. Ruth Hayden was an influential leader in the areas of emergent and family literacy in Alberta. Ruth worked tirelessly to advance the field of family literacy in Alberta and beyond.

Dr. Ruth, as those in the field knew her, spent many hours researching, developing and evaluating family literacy programs. She developed numerous training manuals for the Centre for Family Literacy and co-authored many resources used in the family literacy field and in other disciplines as well. Dr. Hayden was instrumental in building community capacity across the province.

Dr. Hayden spent a great deal of time training front-line practitioners across the province, as well as mentoring and coaching policy-makers and funders. She shared her deep knowledge and helped others build the principles of family literacy into their everyday practice. She also instilled the importance of working with the whole family in her dealings with practitioners, funders and community members. She believed that parents, given the right support and strategies, could be more confident in their role as their child's first teacher.

Dr. Hayden further believed that family literacy is as much about adult literacy and learning as it is about early and emergent literacy. She saw family literacy as an opportunity to re-engage parents in their own learning environments, where they see themselves as competent learners who can better their own lives, that of their families and their communities.

"If we are to raise literacy standards in any significant way, we need to do more to ensure that all parents have the confidence to support their children's developing literacy and in so doing are encouraged to develop their own literacy." - Ruth Hayden, PhD Professor Emeritus

Award Description

The Ruth Hayden Memorial Family Literacy Practitioner Award will be presented to an individual who has excelled in the field of family literacy, maintained a high quality of service to participants and the community and shown a commitment to their own learning.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominee must be at least 18 years of age, be a resident of Alberta, consent to their nomination and not have been a previous recipient of the award. The nominee must have at least two years of experience working with families in addressing the literacy needs of the family. Other award criteria is attached.

Note: Centre for Family Literacy staff are eligible if nominated by an external organization/person.

Criteria

The Award Selection Committee will review all submissions and examine how the nominee meets the following criteria:

1. **Incorporates and uses Statements of Best Practice for Family Literacy** – found at http://www.familit.ca/resources/Family_Literacy_BP_2018-2.pdf
2. **Demonstrates understanding of family systems theory** – recognizes and supports the family as a “learning unit” and understands that family encompasses more than only those attending a program
3. **Understands adult learning**– as a vital component of family literacy and works to ensure this element is included in programs and/or that parents are given further opportunities to develop their own literacy skills
4. **Works in collaboration** – understands the importance of and makes a real commitment to effective community partnerships as a means of supporting individuals and families in reaching their goals
5. **Continues to learn and develop professionally** – is always aiming for excellence and ensuring that practice is research-based; seeks out opportunities to increase their own knowledge; engages in reflective practice
6. **Promotes inclusion** – creates environments in which any individual or group feels welcomed, respected, supported, and valued to fully participate; an inclusive and welcoming environment embraces differences and offers respect for all people
7. **Promotes Family Literacy** - works towards building capacity, awareness and knowledge of family literacy in communities and society as a whole

Submissions are expected to include the following:

- A completed nomination form signed by the nominator and nominee
- A letter of support from the nominator (1000 words or less) highlighting the achievements of the nominee with respect to the selection criteria. Please include the following:
 - Reasons you believe the nominee deserves the award
 - Nominee’s activities that relate to the award criteria
 - Any additional information that demonstrates the outstanding efforts of the nominee.

Nominations are due by 4:30 on September 3, 2021. They will be reviewed by an impartial jury using the criteria as described in this package.

Ruth Hayden Memorial Family Literacy Practitioner Award Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Please print clearly and sign below

Name

Mailing Address

City/Town

Province

Postal Code

Telephone

E-mail

I, _____ agree to be nominated for the Ruth Hayden Family Literacy Practitioner Award. I consent to the use and exchange of this information between the Centre for Family Literacy and the Award Selection Committee for the purpose of evaluating and selecting an award recipient. If I receive this award, I also consent to having my name, a summary of achievements and photograph released to the media and included in publications for publicity purposes associated with the award.

Signature of Nominee

Nominator Information

Please print clearly and sign below

Nominator

Name

Mailing address

City/Town

Province

Postal Code

Telephone

E-mail

Signature of Nominator

Date

Send Nomination by 4:30 pm. September 3, 2021 to:

Email: info@famlit.ca with the subject line "Attention Ruth Hayden Award Committee"

or

Mail: Centre for Family Literacy, 11642 142 Street, Edmonton AB T5M 1V4

or

Fax: (780) 421-7324

N.B.

- **All practitioners (facilitators, coordinators, trainers, management, etc), regardless of funding sources for their family literacy program, are eligible**