

# Centre for Family Literacy

## Alberta Prairie C.O.W. Bus

Fall Newsletter 2016



### Puzzles and Games

#### Learning Through Puzzles and Games

Many children enjoy playing with puzzles and games already. What many people don't realize is just how much learning takes place when we engage in these activities *together* as a family! A store-bought or a homemade puzzle, provides an opportunity for your child to use problem solving and fine motor skills. Puzzles require us to manipulate objects and pieces using trial and error in order to complete it. Games are another great vehicle for learning. A game as simple as "I Spy" provides an opportunity to show your child different objects and to teach them new words. Playing card games such as "Go Fish" or "Crazy Eights" provides your child with the opportunity to work on their numeracy skills. As your child gets older, try playing games like "Tic-Tac-Toe" and "Hang Man", as they provide opportunities to work on strategy and spelling skills. Never underestimate the importance of playing board games either, as it provides opportunities to bond and make memories together with your family members!

### Make an I Spy Bottle

A homemade I Spy Bottle is a fun way to play "I Spy" to talk about objects, colours, textures, and shapes. This interaction helps build your child's vocabulary!

#### Materials:

- 1 empty and clean water or pop bottle
- dry rice or dry sand, to put inside the bottle
- an assortment of random, small objects to put into the bottle
- hot glue and/or duct tape

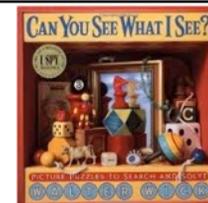
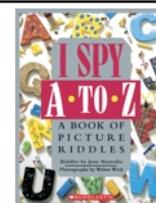
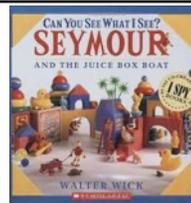
#### Directions:

- put your assortment of random, small objects inside the bottle
- fill the bottle about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with rice or sand
- make sure to hot glue and/or duct tape the lid of the bottle onto the top (**make sure that the lid is very tight and secure**)
- shake up the bottle and talk about the objects/colours/shapes/textures that you see
- I Spy bottles also work as fun musical instruments!



#### Puzzle and Game Books

Share a book together with your child that involves some problem solving. I Spy books where you have to find the listed objects in the pictures, are fun ways to interact and learn at the same time!



Find out more about family literacy and upcoming C.O.W. visits at [www.famlit.ca](http://www.famlit.ca) or call the Centre for Family Literacy at 780-421-7323 (Toll Free 1-866-421-7323). Funded by the Government of Alberta.