

Centre Page

Home Visitor Training

On March 11th and 12th, Dr. Ruth Hayden, Professor Emeritus from the University of Alberta, and Kimberley Onclin, Program Manager at the Centre for Family Literacy, delivered Early Literacy Training to 53 home visitors from 10 Edmonton agencies.

Home visitors are support workers who visit families in their homes. The two one day sessions provided participants with an understanding of adult and family literacy, and ways to help families integrate early language

and literacy development activities into their daily lives.

This training was developed by the Centre to give home visitors the theoretical framework of oral language development and emergent literacy, as well as practical tools for promoting and facilitating family literacy.

Christina Arnold, Rhymes That Bind Coordinator, gave a demonstration to one group to help home visitors become familiar with rhymes, finger plays and songs to model for families.



*Dr. Ruth Hayden,
Professor Emeritus,
University of Alberta*

Volunteer for Raise-a-Reader

The Centre is pleased to be involved with Raise-a-Reader, a Can-West Global Foundation initiative.

Raise-a-Reader will be at the Edmonton Street Performers' Festival, July 4-13, 2003. We need volunteers to work in the the 'kids area'. Please call June at 421-7323 if you can help out.

As part of the Centre's work with the Parent-Child Literacy Strategy of Alberta Learning, Community Programs, the training will be delivered several times this year.

SUMMER HOURS

The Centre will not be open in the evening during the months of July and August 2003

Centre for
Family Literacy

#201
11456 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0M1

(780) 421-7323

Email: cfla@eLit.ca
website: familit.ca



Soup's On

Two other Challenges workshops were held this spring: Book Study and Readers' Theatre. Thanks to everybody for participating.

This spring's evening Challenges group came to an end on April 24. Over the past eight weeks, students worked on crossword puzzles, word searches, exploring what is special about Edmonton, mapping their communities, participating in Readers' Theatre and adding favourite recipes to the Challenges' Recipe Book. Our last activity for the session was preparation and making of soup. Everybody brought something to put into the

pot. We all had great fun chopping vegetables, browning hamburger, deciding who needed to do what chores at the windup, and adding names to our list of invited guests. The students spent the evening sharing a Readers' Theatre script and creating new puzzles with friends and family. Both soups were delicious! Special thanks to those who brought the freshly baked bannock, homemade strawberry jam and wonderful refreshments.

Fond Farewells

Keith Anderson, Senior Literacy Consultant, Community Programs, Alberta Learning, retired on April 17th – his birthday! We will miss Keith in his official role, but we know he'll be no stranger - he is considering becoming a volunteer tutor. Congratulations on a wonderful career, Keith, and best wishes for a happy retirement.

Sharon Skage, Provincial Services Manager, left the position on April 25 to pursue an exciting new career. The Centre for Family Literacy and the fields of adult and family literacy owe a debt of gratitude to Sharon for her many contributions. Our most sincere thanks and best wishes go to Sharon – she will be greatly missed.

Sounds and Symbols

An innovative workshop on phonetics, which tutors and students attended together, was held during April and May. The results were very positive. The tutors were given the chance to refresh the skills they already possessed and the students were eager to soak in as much information about phonics as we were able to provide. One of

the tutors commented after taking this workshop, "I feel I received the help I needed with techniques to use when teaching phonics". One of the students commented: "I learned how to pronounce words—break them down and then they make sense". Thanks to ECALA for providing the funding to run this workshop.

Family Literacy Training

The first of two provincial training institutes to be offered this year by the Centre for Family Literacy took place in Edmonton from March 24th – 28th. Thirty-three people attended Foundational Training in Family Literacy, a five-day institute that covers the ten essential components of offering effective, sustainable family literacy programs.

The second provincial institute is coming up at the end of the summer. Family Literacy Models Training will be held in Edmonton from August 25th to 29th, and participants can choose from training in ten specific types of family literacy programs.

Funding for these training institutes is provided by Community Programs, Alberta Learning through the

Parent-Child Literacy Strategy. Funding for travel subsidies is provided by the National Literacy Secretariat of Human Resources Development Canada.



Gayle Marshall, Debbie Ladouceur and Pat Kenny at the 2003 Foundational Training Institute

Storysacks

The Centre for Family Literacy has started a project called “B.O.O.K.S and Storysacks –Empowering Parents as Children’s First Teachers”. Our main partner in this project is the ABC Head Start Program. This is the first time we are offering Storysacks programming in the community.

A Storysack is a fun way for children and adults to read together. A Storysack includes a good children’s book and lots of activities to bring reading to life. Storysacks are not

bought from stores; they are made by the community.

Volunteers are needed for our new Storysacks Canada program. Sample activities can include sewing bags, making dolls into characters, making game cards and backdrops for stories, and thinking up questions and activities for parents to use with each story.

Volunteers may work at home or at the Centre. Another option is to come to sessions and help parents do all of the above.



Patron

Lieutenant Governor
The Honourable
Lois Hole

Board of Directors

Jason Randhawa,
Chair
Randy Boissonnault,
Past Chair
Sue Lynch,
Vice-Chair
James Gillespie,
Secretary-Treasurer
Paul K. Lachambre
Dr. Elizabeth Vetsch

Staff

Maureen Sanders,
Executive Director
Kimberley Onclin,
Program Manager
Diane Wozniak,
Admin. Assistant
Dolores Bissonnette,
Accounting
Marlene Packman,
Receptionist
Terry McGuire,
Technical Support

Programs

Theone Adachi,
B.O.O.K.S./Help Your
Child To Read and Write
Christina Arnold,
Rhymes That Bind
Colleen Crozier,
B.O.O.K.S.
Debbie Severinsen,
Student Coordinator
June Hughes,
Volunteer Coordinator
Wendy Peverett,
Books for Babies
Joanne Morgan,
Librarian
Darrell Giraldeau,
C.O.W. (Classroom on
Wheels)
Heidi Ryll,
Family Literacy Facilitator

The Centre welcomes Heidi Ryll, who started work as the new Family Literacy Facilitator in March. She has actually been a Rhymes that Bind facilitator for about seven years. Heidi is now providing support to all of the Centre's family literacy programs.

Volunteer Cornerstone

Volunteer Appreciation Event – April 11, 2003

This year's volunteer appreciation event was held at the Odysium (the Space Science Center, to those of you who don't know of the name change).

What a great setting for an event! We were given the run of the venue, and were able to take in all the displays for the whole evening. At 7pm we got to see the Laser light show of Aerosmith music!! A bit 'rock' for some people, but enjoyed by most. Then on to the Starlight room for a get together and some terrific food from A'Cappella catering. It was a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to get to know each other.

The prizes for the evening were donated by local businesses and we believe every volunteer who attended received a gift!

Special thanks to the following businesses for their kind donations:

Odysium	The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra
Valley Zoo	Laurie Greenwoods' Volume II Ltd.
Marvel College	Starbucks Coffee Company Ltd.
Wild Rose Foundation	Kyoto Japanese Cuisine
The Edmonton Journal	Greenwood Inn Hotels
Indigo Books & Music Inc.	Gateway Rec Centre
Crystal Carwin Sweets and Gifts	Ft. Edmonton Park
Julio's Barrio Mexican Restaurant	The Golddome
Daltons Steak & Seafood Dining Room	Notables



Volunteer Coordinator June Hughes awards the winners of the balloon tower challenge.