

The Centre for Family Literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper.



The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

September 2006

Lois Hole Memorial Award



The Centre for Family Literacy was very proud and honoured when the late Dr. Lois Hole agreed to be our first Honourary Patron and champion the cause of family literacy in our province.

To honour her legacy, the Centre has established two awards that will be given annually. One will be awarded to an adult enrolled in one of our literacy programs who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to their own learning or that of their children. The second award will recognize the outstanding individual, business or organization that has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to family literacy in Alberta.

The first annual Lois Hole Memorial Achievement Awards will be presented on Wednesday January 24, 2007 at the Centre's Family Literacy Day breakfast with guest speaker, Dr. Eric Newell.

Information and nomination forms for the inaugural awards are contained as an insert in this newsletter and can be found on our website at www.famlit.ca. The nomination deadline is Monday, October 30, 2006.

“Literacy is at the heart of all learning and families have a key role to play in developing and nurturing literacy through every stage of life.”

The Late, the Honourable
Dr. Lois E. Hole

Family Literacy Research Evidence Based Programming

The Centre for Family Literacy is a leader in developing and delivering evidence based family literacy programs.

What does this mean? It means that we evaluate for expected and unexpected outcomes and collect evidence that our programs work. We collect both qualitative and quantitative information and submit it for an external evaluation and report. Our logic model (available on the Centre website) outlines the goals for our organization as a whole, and for specific programs.

Outcomes from our 2005 program evaluations show that 85% of children involved in programming are now requesting rereadings of their favourite books. 80% of participating parents report they are now interacting more positively with their children, and are more aware of the importance of talking and

“80% of participating parents report they are now interacting more positively with their children...”

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Family Literacy Research

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playing with their children. 80% of parents also report that they are more aware of their children's learning needs and are enjoying being with their children more because of their involvement in a family literacy program. 70% of the parents report that they are now more interested in writing, and are reading more frequently themselves, which helps demonstrate that family literacy is also about adult literacy.

Some of the following comments from participants and program partners demonstrate in a personal way the impact of our programs (no editing of comments was done):



- I want my child to do better in school than I did; this programs really is helping ... and I am learning lots too (*parent*)
- I'm excited about reading to my child (*parent*)
- I can read the newspaper now – not before my program (*adult*)
- I see some of the parents who were in the program coming back to the library many times; it's so wonderful (*agency*)
- My child often picks up a pen and paper and tries to writes notes and letters (*parent*)
- This program should be a must for all parents. You really get to know what kids are all about (*parent*)
- I am more in control of myself – I use rhymes to get over the tough spots and now my child is calmer too (*parent*)

The Centre also plays a role in collecting and disseminating relevant research and news to those in the family literacy field in Alberta. One example is the recent debate about the BabyFirst TV channel launched in the United States. A Seattle Post Intelligencer article stated "A 2003 study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 68 percent of children younger than 2 watch TV or videos daily and 26 percent have a TV in their bedroom. Nonetheless, the pediatrics academy recommends that children of that age not be exposed to TV or videos, saying that learning to talk and play with others is much more important." To read the full article go to www.seattlepi.nwsourc.com/tv/269768_baby11.html

Tom Sticht, International Consultant in Adult Education, recently released a paper entitled *Life Cycles Education Policy: Adult Education Makes Early Childhood Education a Good Economic Development Strategy*. In it he states, "A "Life Cycles" policy for education explicitly recognizes that educational policies do not affect only one generation but through the intergenerational transfer of motivation, language and literacy they affect many cycles of lives across generations." To read the full text go to www.nald.ca/fulltext/sticht/06feb24/feb24-06.pdf.

Conventional wisdom suggests that lack of oral English proficiency is the main impediment to successful literacy learning for young ESL students, but recent evidence suggests that this may not be true. There is an interesting article on the Canadian Council for Learning website (www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LiL12May.htm) entitled *First Language Not Necessarily Linked to Reading Proficiency*. Also on this website is another topical article *Why is High-quality Childcare Essential?* The link to this article is www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/20060530LinL.htm.

CIBC Community Funding

Donations provide the much-needed support that allows us to continue to deliver quality programs and expand to reach more families who want to improve their literacy skills.

This spring the Centre received a generous donation from the CIBC World Markets Children's Miracle Foundation. Each year on the first Wednesday of December, the commissions earned by CIBC World Markets and CIBC Wood Gundy are donated to over 400 children's charities across Canada. Through this effort, over \$10.5 million was raised globally for children's charities in 2005.

Over the past several years, the Centre has been the recipient of funding from this foundation and we appreciate the ongoing commitment of the staff at the Edmonton office to family literacy in our community.



Eric Falkenberg-Peotz, Children's Miracle Day Chair presenting a cheque to Maureen Sanders, Centre for Family Literacy Executive Director

Circle Your Calendar

Here are some upcoming events in our community celebrating and raising awareness of literacy.

Tutor Training Institute

Call the Centre if you are interested in being a volunteer in our Adult Tutoring Program. Training will be provided this fall and includes three sessions: Literacy 101, Breaking the Reading Code, and Un-blocking the Path to Writing.

Raise a Reader Day

September 28

A CanWest Global initiative, with events in cities across Canada. Since 2002, raising money for local programming and resources to support children's literacy by having celebrity and other "news hawkers" handing out newspapers in return for cash donations, from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. on downtown Edmonton street corners.

Read In Week

October 2-6

Celebrated for 17 years in Edmonton; this year's theme is "Reading Crosses Cultures/Lecture sans frontières". Opening and closing ceremonies, celebrity readers in schools, general literacy awareness. For more information visit their website at www.epl.ca/readin

National Family Literacy Day

January 27

Watch for upcoming news about events and activities in Edmonton and across Alberta.

The Centre for Family Literacy gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the following:



Human Resources and Social Development Canada



The Province Will Make Your Will!

Yes, unless you do it for yourself and your family, the Province will make your Will.

Only 35% of all individuals have Wills. It is estimated that many millions of dollars goes through probate courts each year without benefit of a Will. This money represents hard-earned dollars, and probably many sacrifices made to accumulate them.

There is no doubt that those of you who accumulate an estate, whether large or small, have specific ideas about what you would like to do with your estate and to whom it should be distributed. But the Province of Alberta does not know your desires. So, unless you have your own Will, the Province will write one for you, after you have gone, to cover the situation.

Do not assume there is plenty of time, and put off making a Will. Do it now! Not to do so can hurt your family, not just financially, but in other ways.

And, while you are writing your Will, we hope you might include those organizations that have had meaning in your life including The Centre for Family Literacy. This inclusion could be for a percentage, fixed dollar amount or remainder interest. Including the Centre for any amount qualifies for membership in our Legacy for Literacy Club.

If interested in discussing this matter further with us, please call Donna Lemieux at (780) 421-7323.

Funding Found for Local C.O.W. Bus



Thanks to the generous support of the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation and Success by 6®, the Edmonton Literacy C.O.W. bus will continue to make its weekly visits to neighbourhoods throughout Edmonton.

The bus is a drop-in bookmobile that offers an opportunity for families with few resources to borrow books for free. Through informal book sharing, story telling, singing, and modelling of literacy strategies, parents are provided with literacy support for their pre-school children. All of the programming happens on the bus.

The C.O.W. Bus has added the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers as a new location. You can view the full schedule on our website at www.famlit.ca

Literacy Develops in Families First

The Centre for Family literacy is dedicated to helping Alberta grow and prosper. Our innovative programs, training and research help Alberta families achieve what they imagine - improved education, jobs and health.

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