



The Centre for Family Literacy

Centre Page

A Learner's Story

A few years before I came to the Centre for Family Literacy, my girlfriend gave me a flyer for the Centre with the phone number on it, but I did nothing about it. Whenever I tried to read I would get frustrated and give up. One day, my 7-year-old daughter and I were reading a book and I had trouble making out the words.

“Reading has helped me in many ways. I now can understand work orders and use the computer to help fix my vehicles.”

I decided to call the Centre and make an appointment to see someone. I knew that not being able to read was holding me back in life. Going to meet my tutor was one of the hardest things I've ever done! The first few sessions with my tutor were nerve wracking! It took a few sessions to learn to relax.

One of the reasons I learned how to read is so I could learn how to use the computer and new technology. I went from a Level one to Level six

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Tutors Needed

Our Vision:

A healthy, literate society where all are able to contribute and succeed.

During the fall there is an increase in the number of adults looking for a tutor to help them improve their reading, writing or math skills.

“Seeing my learner improve her English and the sparkle in her eyes when she learns something is the most enjoyable part of volunteering” said one tutor. If you would like to learn more about the Adult Tutoring Program, visit our website or call and talk to our Volunteer Coordinator.

New Family Literacy Programs Planned

This year the Centre's goal was to research and develop two new programs to meet various needs that have been expressed from our program participants, partners and funders. Using this feedback as a starting point, we held numerous brainstorming sessions, consulted with our whole CFL team, and examined the continuum of programs we currently offer. We determined the general topics and target audiences for the new programs: a numeracy program for parents with their three to five-year-olds, and a school age program for parents and their children in grades one to three.



In June, using all of the information collected, the program team took two full days away from the office to work on program development. The result was a solid framework for both programs. Over the summer, work continued and great progress was made on content and activities – although the programs' names seem to be elusive.

The numeracy program will help parents support their child's numeracy and literacy development. Activities will connect families through shared literacy and numeracy experiences – building on basic number sense, shapes, patterns, and predictability.

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Contact us

11642 142 Street NW Edmonton, AB T5M 1V4 T 780.421.READ (7323) Toll free 1.866.421.7323
F 780.421.7324 E info@famlit.ca W www.famlit.ca

September
2012

Links Fore Literacy



The second annual golf tournament was held at The Links at Spruce Grove on Wednesday, August 29. The tournament raises money for the local Classroom on Wheels program. The C.O.W. Bus was at the tournament and many of the golfers took the opportunity pop in and see the program first-hand.

The Centre would like to thank our sponsors:

Birdie Sponsor:	Eton-West Construction WorleyParsonsCord
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Caddy Sponsors:	Brinsmead Kennedy Architects Lexus Edmonton Nearctic Group
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The Centre would also like to thank our Hole Sponsors and all of the businesses and individuals who provided prizes and gifts for the tournament.



Learner's Story

Continued

in one year and won the Lois Hole Adult Literacy award.

I enjoy surfing the "net". It's nice to be able to look at instructions and figure them out on your own instead of waiting for someone else to help you out. I remember how I used to struggle looking for addresses in the city. Now, I take reading for granted because I don't even remember all the struggles I used to have ... but there are still more mountains to climb.

K.G.

New Programs

Continued

The school age program has its foundation in another CFL program called *Help Your Child to Read and Write*. This program provided parents with the skills to support their child's literacy development through reading and writing strategies. The new program uses that well researched foundation and introduces new topics of interest to parents such as technology and numeracy. The structure of its delivery will also be changed to adapt to the busy lives of parents and children.

Both programs will be piloted in the fall or early winter, and then evaluated and adapted as necessary. It is a very exciting time as the program team is looking forward to seeing how the programs are received and how they will move ahead in the future.

The Importance of Parent-child Communication

In a recent overview of research, Dr. Cathy Hamer, policy and communications manager at National Literacy Trust, examined the evidence for the importance of early communication between babies and their parents.

“Parents give their young child an advantage when they talk, read, and listen with them and respond to their babbles, gestures and words.”

The research overview determined that language development is influenced by the child's communication environment. Parents give their young child an advantage when they talk, read, and listen with them and respond to their babbles, gestures and words. It was found that babies in the womb hear clearly enough in the last few months of pregnancy to distinguish their mother's voice and become sensitive to the rhythm of their native language.

A number of factors influence a child's language development and their performance upon entering school including:

- The frequency with which a child plays with letters/numbers at home
- The frequency with which parents read to their child and visit the library
- The frequency with which parents teach their child songs or rhymes.

There was a strong association between a child's social background and their readiness for school as measured by their scores on school entry assessments. However, the communication environment is a more accurate predictor of early language than social background.

Therefore, aiming to improve the home learning, and in particular the communication environment, for young children in less advantaged social groups through support for parents is considered an important strategy for addressing social inequalities in educational advancement.

Access the complete study at www.literacytrust.org.uk

Mark Your Calendar

September 20 - 22

Alberta Early Years Conference 2012

October 1 - 5

READ in Week 2012

Theme: Read the World
www.readin.ca

October 17 - 19

Literacy & Learning Symposium 2012

www.literacylearning.ca

October 17 - 28

LitFest 2012

www.litfestalberta.org/Home.aspx



Online donations to the Centre can be made through CanadaHelps.org



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



Government of Alberta

SUCCESS BY 6



Fall Program Season

If you would prefer to receive our newsletter via email rather than by mail, please send us an email at info@famlit.ca and reference Centre Page in the subject line.

For many, September is seen as the beginning of the learning year and at the Centre it is no different.

The local C.O.W. Bus will be back on the road September 11 visiting ten neighbourhoods on a weekly basis in Edmonton. Rhymes that Bind and Books for Babies has a full complement of programs that will be delivered in a number of locations across the city.

The Adult program is offering the Dollars & Sense: Basic Understanding of Money program at the Norwood Child and Family Resource Centre. The Good Reads Book Club starts on September 6 at the Stanley Milner Library with the book Easy Money by Gail Vaz-Oxlade.

The Literacy Links program is offering a new series of half-day workshops for those who work with children in daycares, day homes and other programs starting September 8 at the Centre.

Check our website, Facebook page or follow us on Twitter for more information.



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Your support will help us make a difference in the lives of Alberta families! Together we can make Alberta a healthy, literate society where all are able to contribute and succeed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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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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