



The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

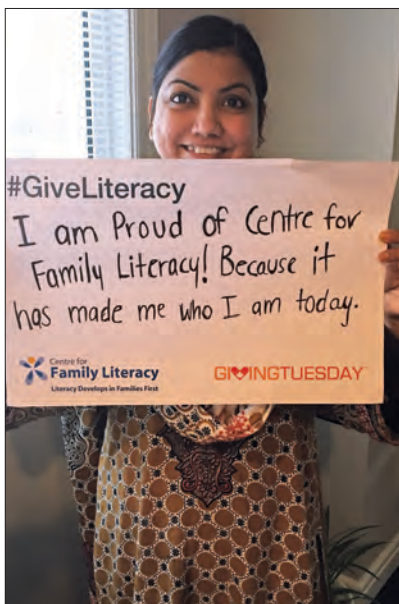
DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Our Mission Statement:

The Centre for Family Literacy builds, develops, and improves literacy with families and communities.

For most of us, the skills of reading, writing, and language comprehension are taken for granted. We hardly stop to imagine what life would be like without these basic skills. But barely ten years ago, such was the reality for Taslima when she first arrived in Canada from her native Bangladesh. She couldn't read, write, or comprehend the English language.

So limited were her literacy skills that she could neither assist her elementary-grade children with their school work, nor visit a doctor in the event of illness. To overcome this, her husband desperately turned to the Centre for Family Literacy. If nothing else, Taslima hoped, with the Centre's assistance, to gain adequate literacy skills to help her children with their school work, to be able to visit a doctor independently, and to pass her Citizenship test.



At the Centre for Family Literacy, Taslima found in Georgianna a committed, patient, and skillful tutor. On her part, Georgianna found in Taslima a tenacious and determined literacy learner. In a matter of time, Taslima's language and literacy were good enough to land her in her first job at Costco, and not long after that she applied for and got an even more desirable job at Superstore.

Continued on page 2

OILERS FOUNDATION FUNDS 3,2,1, FUN!

The Centre for Family Literacy was pleased to receive a grant from the Oilers Community Foundation in support of 3,2,1, Fun!, a drop in program for parents and their preschool children (ages 3-5). The grant has allowed the Centre to offer this free program in two different locations this fall.



3,2,1, Fun! provides parents with ideas, strategies, and activities they can use to help their children build a foundation in both early numeracy and literacy for greater success when they start school.

Research shows that parents, as their children's first teachers, have a great influence on the literacy and numeracy development of their children. Parents who talk with, play with, and read with their children from birth provide them with a solid foundation in language, numeracy, and early literacy. These skills are essential to children's success in daily activities, in formal school settings, and life-long learning.

Continued on page 2

Contact us

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WINTER
2016

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Continued

With her newly acquired literacy skills, Taslima's dreams translated into reality. She passed her Citizenship test, and when she turned her attention to acquiring her own home from Habitat for Humanity's Affordable Housing, her tutor was there to help her with the lengthy application process.



Taslima does not conceal her excitement about owning a home. *"I could not have done this without the help of my tutor. When I got the key to the house, Georgianna was with me. She walked this long journey with us."*

She also talks about how much better life is because of her newly acquired literacy skills. *"I now enjoy talking to other people. I am not shy any more because I had to make a lot of speeches when I got my house. I addressed guests including the local MLA, City Councillor and*

home builder. I can now explain my problems to the doctor. I can handle everything related to school such as writing to my son's teacher and organizing field trips. I also handle my own banking."

In order to qualify for the Habitat for Humanity housing program, Taslima and her husband were required to put in 500 hours of volunteer work. They are now more than half way through the required sweat equity hours.

OILER'S FOUNDATION

Continued

In the 3,2,1, Fun! program, families explore concepts like far/near, sink/float, and light/heavy through crafts, games, books, and stories. By learning that making a pattern with toy trucks across the living room floor is an early numeracy skill, parents can support those skills in a meaningful way.

The activities in the program help both parents and their children become better communicators, problem solvers, and more fluent math thinkers. Parents are thrilled to learn simple and affordable activities they can take home and use on a daily basis.

With a focus on programs that support education and health and wellness for youth, the Oilers Foundation is deeply committed to enriching lives while finding long-term solutions to improve our community where we live, work and play. The Centre for Family Literacy's 3,2,1, Fun! program was a perfect complement to that mandate.

"The Centre for Family Literacy is grateful for the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation's grant contribution. This is an essential program for families and young children, and the Oilers Foundation's commitment to youth is admirable," said the Centre's Resource Director Donna Lemieux.

"We are certainly thrilled that a program so deeply rooted in supporting parents with early childhood education exists,"

said EOFC Executive Director Natalie Minckler. *"Supporting youth in Oil Country is a top priority for our Foundation and our community will greatly benefit from the 3,2,1, Fun! program."*

2017 FAMILY LITERACY CARNIVAL

Returning for its fifth year, the Family Literacy Carnival offers parents and kids an afternoon of free interactive activities for the whole family.

The Carnival gives families the chance to explore a series of stations focused on science, play, technology, health, music, math, Aboriginal culture, and one surprise! Each station offers a variety of activities that families can do together to support literacy and learning.

Families can wander from station to station at their own pace discovering how much fun you can have learning. In the past they have made “elephant tooth paste,” been up close to a hissing cockroach, tried finger weaving at the Aboriginal station, and built shakers at the music station.

The Carnival is a partnership between the Centre for Family Literacy and students from MacEwan University Golden Key Honorary Society. The students are hard at work coming up with new hands-on activities for this year’s Carnival. Join us for this fun filled afternoon, visit each station, and get your passport stamped so you can take home a free book!

Date: Sunday, January 29, 2017
Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Robbins Health Learning Centre
 MacEwan University
 109 St & 104 Ave, Edmonton



CHARITY CASINO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our casino event is at Century Casino on **Friday, February 24** and **Saturday, February 25, 2017**.

We have 36 positions to fill and would greatly appreciate your commitment to volunteer at this event. Sign up with a friend!

This year we’re using an online sign-up. To see the positions available, simply go to: <http://bit.ly/CasinoSignUp>

If you prefer to sign up by email or phone, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer_coordinator@famlit.ca or 780-421-7323.

IMPORTANT DATES

Office Christmas Closure

December 26 - January 2

National Family Literacy Day

Friday, January 27

Family Literacy Carnival

Sunday, January 29

2:00–4:00 p.m.

Robbins Health Learning Centre
 MacEwan University

Visit our website for more information.



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



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



RUTH HAYDEN FAMILY LITERACY AWARD WINNER



Wendy Peverett

The Ruth Hayden Memorial Family Literacy Practitioner Award was presented to Wendy Peverett at the Literacy and Learning Symposium held in Edmonton this fall. The award is named in honour of Dr. Ruth Hayden and recognizes the accomplishments of a family literacy practitioner.

Wendy Peverett is Program Manager and Literacy Links Coordinator at the Centre for Family Literacy. She also held the position of Edmonton and Area Region Coordinator for the Provincial Family Literacy Regional Network.

Wendy is the personification of what family literacy represents. She understands the important role that families play in supporting a learning environment. Wendy has shared her knowledge and passion with practitioners and families for over 15 years.

Committed to life long learning, Wendy looks for opportunities to increase her knowledge of innovations in the field and integrates them into her programs and training. She is a great collaborator, always looking for ways to involve others in any efforts to build capacity, awareness, and knowledge of the field.

In the words of Wendy's nominator, Donna Arnold, "I know that Dr. Ruth would be smiling and proud to have Wendy win this award."

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!

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Dr.

First Name

Last Name

Company/Organization

E-mail Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

Fax Number

Address

City

Province

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Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

Payment option:

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Credit card #

Expiry date

Cardholder name

Cardholder Signature

For recognition purposes:

I wish my name to appear as follows:

I wish this gift to remain anonymous

Charitable registration number 869472720 RR0001

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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