



# The Centre for Family Literacy Centre Page

## A PERFECT DAY FOR GOLF

### Our Mission Statement:

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

Another fun and fabulous Links fore Literacy Golf tournament was held at the Links Golf Course. The golfers were treated to a beautiful sun filled day, a rarity this summer. Players participated in a Beat the Pro (Blair Oko) challenge, a Putting Challenge, a marshmallow chipping contest, and a beanbag toss.

Green jackets are awarded to the team with the lowest score. This year's winners were the Crowe MacKay team of Kieran Bowes, Jason LeBlanc, Scott Belland, and Leigh Melynchuk,



who came in at 19 under par! How is that possible? Well, besides their skill as golfers, the use of string and mulligans plays a big part in lowering team scores. The Ledcor team of Scott Murchinson, Darren Rosin, Dale

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## CENTRE LAUNCHES NEW CONTINUUM PROGRAM

This fall the Centre will offer a continuum of family literacy programs that intentionally moves adults and their preschool children from entry level programs, building soft and foundational essential skills, to more advanced learning.

The continuum is comprised of a series of three programs offered over 26-30 weeks with five partner agencies. Each series will be a combination of any three of the Centre's programs: Books for Babies, Rhymes that Bind, Literacy Links, Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) Bus, Learn Together-Grow Together, 3,2,1,Fun!, or Books Offer Our Kids Success (B.O.O.K.S.).

There is not a standard format, but rather each series will have its own unique programming. We will be working closely with partner agencies and the families to determine which programs, and in what sequence, they will be offered.

Our intention is to customize the site's program continuum to reflect the needs of the families in that particular community. Are they at entry level, or are they ready to start at intermediate, or even advanced programming?

This is a new way of looking at how we deliver our programs and how we build on what parents have learned from one program to the next. Families will be encouraged to start at

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## A PERFECT DAY FOR GOLF

*Continued*

Tam, and Derek Hutchins came in second with 17 under par.



The Links fore Literacy Golf Tournament supports the Centre's Classroom on Wheels (C.O.W.) Bus program. The bus was parked between the 9th and 10th holes and golfers came on the bus to learn more about the program. They also participated in an activity called "Feed the Cloud." Golfers had to find the letters of the alphabet that spelled their name and put them in the cloud. Definitely a fun way to demonstrate a game to help children learn their letters.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, participants, volunteers, and staff for making this year's event so successful.

### SPONSORS:

Eagle	PCL
Birdie	Ledcor Group
Banquet	Nearctic
Lunch	Maclab Developments & Pangman Developments
Cart	Bennett Jones
Caddy	Alberta Blue Cross



## CONTINUUM PROGRAM

*Continued*

the beginning and progress through all the weeks to achieve the biggest benefit. However, we know from working with families over the years that there needs to be flexibility in entry and exit points.

We also know that the longer families are in a program, the more both the parent and their children benefit.

“*Research has shown that parents who participate in family literacy programs: learn to value education; increase their own literacy, numeracy, and parenting skills; and are better able to support their children in their language and literacy development.*”

We are excited to partner with ABC Head Start, Family Futures Resource Network, and Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society in launching this new initiative. Each partner brings a unique community to the table, and we look forward to adapting our programs to meet their needs.

## DEVELOPING EARLY MATH SKILLS

Recent research from Vanderbilt University focussed on two important skills that contribute to early math development—patterning, and spatial skills. They found that simple activities like playing with blocks or sorting toys help preschool children develop these skills.



Patterns that repeat in a logical way, things like shapes and images, help a child learn to make predictions. Arranging pieces of paper of different sizes and shapes, stacking blocks, or creating a necklace with chunky beads are activities related to patterns. The child learns to make predictions, to understand what comes next in the pattern.

There is no need for prior number knowledge for the child to see the underlying rules in the pattern. By helping a child see patterns in their everyday activities, they are building awareness of the rules of patterns. They are learning

about patterns through play. This awareness can then be applied to numbers and supports the development of their numeracy skills.

While many people know that playing with blocks develops fine motor skills, many people do not realize the connection between playing with blocks and spatial skills. Playing with blocks involves lots of rotating, moving, and positioning pieces. A child gets a sense of shape, size, space, position, direction, and movement.

Stacking and manipulating toys helps a child understand the relationship and interconnection between those objects. Solving math problems often involves thinking about how things interconnect, how the numbers and symbols are placed in relation to each other. Playing with blocks, puzzles, and other toys that can be moved, rotated, and stacked, helps build the spatial skills necessary to support math problem solving.

Because math knowledge begins to develop at a young age, it is important that we understand how to build this knowledge in preschool children. The Vanderbilt University research highlighted the critical role that parents and caregivers play in supporting children, and promoting skills that promote later math learning.

## IMPORTANT DATES

*READ IN*

**October 7 - 11**

*Theme: 30 Years:  
Celebrate with Books*

*Financial Literacy  
Month*

**November**

*Invest in Your Financial  
Well-Being*

*National Child Day*

**November 20**

*Giving Tuesday*

**December 3**



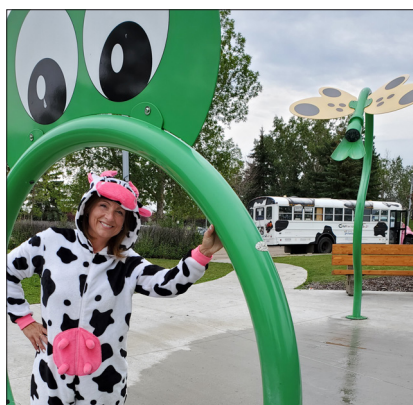
Online donations to the Centre can be made through [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org)



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



## NO SUMMER VACATION FOR THE C.O.W.



Although many of our programs took a break over the summer, the C.O.W. Bus was busy promoting four new locations for this fall. The bus parked at the new locations in Mill Woods Park, Empire, Castledowns, and Mayfield over the summer, setting up activities both outside and inside the bus.

Families were excited to learn the program was coming to their neighbourhood and look forward to their weekly visits starting in October. One woman, a mother of 12 children, brought four of them over to the bus and later her older children came by just to sit on the bus and quietly read books. The

opportunity to borrow books for free and to have the program just outside their home was a big plus for this family.

The C.O.W. also attended the Jasper Place Wellness Centre Block Party. One gentleman approached our staff and asked if he could come on the bus. He had no children with him, but shared that his mother had brought him to the program when he was a child. He had fond memories of his visits and felt his mother, who was a single parent, had relished the opportunities the program provided.

The C.O.W. made a visit to Callingwood Farmers Market and attended the Edmonton Garrison Annual Family picnic. Both were great opportunities to promote our programs. We hope to see many of our summer visitors in the fall.

### 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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