

















2023 Family Literacy Day Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Friday, January 27th is Family Literacy Day! Celebrate literacy today and every day using this calendar of activities. Enjoy time together while you engage in family literacy focused experiences.</p>					<p>27 Happy Family Literacy Day! Have each family member choose a favourite book and read them all together!</p>	<p>28 Family literacy is supported in all in-person and virtual EarlyON Centre programming. Find more information here.</p>
<p>29 Encourage your child to draw a picture. Write down their "word story" to go with it.</p>	<p>30 Go to the Lambton County Library website and reserve some books.</p> 	<p>31 Cuisinez de la tire sur la neige avec votre enfant. Amusant et délicieux!</p> 	<p>February 1 Create a cozy reading nook with blankets and pillows. Curl up and read together.</p>	<p>2 Listen to the news. Did the groundhog see his shadow? Go outside-can you see your shadow?</p> 	<p>3 Make Alphabet soup for lunch today.</p> 	<p>4 Involve your child in folding and sorting the laundry. Talk as you sort. "These are Daddy's socks, they go in his basket..."</p>
<p>5 Many cultures have traditional music. Put on some music - sing together and dance!</p> 	<p>6 Tell your child a story about something they did when they were younger.</p>	<p>7 Write a valentine's note and mail it to a friend or family member.</p> 	<p>8 Share stories of your family by looking at a family photo album together.</p>	<p>9 Act out rhymes such as Humpty Dumpty, Ring Around the Rosie and Jack and Jill.</p> 	<p>10 When using play dough, create lines and curves to form letters. Discuss the letters that are in family members names.</p>	<p>11 Read the back of a cereal box together.</p> 
<p>12 Sprinkle some salt onto a cookie sheet. Have your child use their finger to write letters.</p>	<p>13 Have writing materials available (markers, pencils, paper, envelopes) that your child can easily access.</p> 	<p>14 Happy Valentine's Day Tell someone you love them!</p> 	<p>15 National Flag of Canada Day - Sing 'O Canada'</p> 	<p>16 Découvrez les livres rigolos d'Elise Gravel, auteure Franco-Canadienne. Du plaisir garanti!</p>	<p>17 Have an alphabet scavenger hunt by hiding alphabet puzzle pieces around the room. Once found, put the puzzle back together.</p>	<p>18 Cut pictures out of grocery flyers and glue them on your grocery list. Let your toddler help you shop!</p> 
<p>19 Write or draw a story told by Nookomis (Grandmother) or Mishoomis (Grandfather) and share with your family.</p>	<p>20 Happy Family Day! Use pictures of your family to create an "All About Our Family" book.</p>	<p>21 Use a single sock to make a sock puppet.</p> 	<p>22 Put pancake batter in a squirt bottle to make alphabet pancakes.</p> 	<p>23 Read to your child, then have your child retell the story to you.</p>	<p>24 Look up and make a traditional recipe from your culture and enjoy it together.</p> 	<p>25 Hide something in a sock. Can your child guess what it is? Give clues! Next, the child can hide something.</p>

Supporting Your Child's Literacy and Language Development

Make reading part of your every day

Research tells us that reading aloud with your child helps prepare them for learning and reading. Reading with your child 15 to 20 minutes a day supports your child's:

Vocabulary and language skills which supports later writing skills
Future reading achievement
Imagination, creativity and their understanding of the world

Infants need to hear language in order to learn language

All of the talking, engagement and interaction you have with your child helps them with their brain development. By talking with your child, you're fostering their language and communication development.

Have conversation with your child. Watch their cues and see how they respond (eye contact, coo, smile, move parts of their body, cry, etc.)

Modeling language for your child in authentic ways.

Talk as much as you can about your day, what you're doing and what's happening. "It's now time for snack. After snack we'll clean up and go to the library."

Have your child catch you reading

We are role models for our children in many ways. Be a reading role model as well! Have a variety of reading materials available in your home. Draw your child's attention to the reading that you're doing, share information or an interesting fact. By reading around your children, you're demonstrating that reading has purpose, value and is something to be enjoyed.

Print is all around us

Environmental print is the print that surrounds us in our everyday lives. It can be found on signs, labels and logos. Adults can use the print that is around us in various ways to talk with children about the letters, words and print. Point out the C in the Cheerios box, the T in Tim Horton's, the S in the stop sign. Look for letters that are familiar to your child and introduce new letters. These opportunities allow your child to interact with letters, sounds and words.

Rhymers will be readers

"Experts in literacy and child development have discovered that if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight." (Mem Fox)

Singing and rhyming, including nursery rhymes, assists children in language acquisition. Singing, using finger plays and saying nursery rhymes are easy to memorize, introduce new vocabulary, and are repetitive. Rhyming helps children develop an ear for language. Both rhyme and rhythm help children hear the sounds and syllables in words, and the patterns of language, which help children learn to read.

Strategies For Reading Aloud With Your Child

Support your child's book awareness. Draw your child's attention to the title, author and illustrator of the book. Name the parts of the book; front, back, pages, which way to turn the pages.

Take a picture walk before reading the story. Preview the pictures in the story so your child is able to familiarize themselves with the story before being introduced to the text. Taking a picture walk can get your child interested and excited and perhaps become more engaged when you do read the book together.

Follow your child's cues and what they're interested in when reading the book. If they're drawn to a certain page, stay there and explore it together, ask questions, take time together. If you're child is disinterested, not engaged, perhaps this isn't the book for them or the right time to read together.

Point out print. Draw your child's attention to the print in the text of the book. Point to the specific letters, text that is a different font, in bold etc. Track print with your finger while reading aloud. Pointing out print helps your child gain print knowledge.

Make reading more interactive with **PEER**:

Prompt - Oh, I see a cat. What colour is the cat?

Evaluate - You're right! It is orange.

Expand - It's an orange, soft cat.

Repeat - Can you say orange, soft cat?

Questions to ask using **CROWD** prompts:

Completion - When a cat talks, they say ____."

Recall - Remember we saw the cat on the last page?

Open-ended Questions - Share your thoughts on that.

Wh-Questions - Where does this cat live?

Distancing - Does this cat remind you of ____



Resources and Sources

Lambton County Library <https://www.lclibrary.ca>

Read Aloud 15 Minutes <https://www.readaloud.org/>

Reading Rockets <https://www.readingrockets.org/>

Scholastic for Parents <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/home.html>

The Hanen Centre <http://www.hanen.org>