















Family Literacy Day

2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	January 27 Happy Family Literacy Day! Snuggle up with your family and read some of your favourite books together.	28 Family literacy is supported in all in-person and virtual EarlyON Centre programming. Find more information here .	29 Keep track of the number of books your family reads together for the next thirty days. 	30 Go to the Lambton County Library website and reserve some books.	31 À la bibliothèque, découvrez avec votre enfant la section de livres français.	February 1 Put a glass container outside. Measure each day how much snow accumulates. Record the number and compare. 
2 Point out print! Draw your child's attention to the letters and words that are in books, on street signs and labels. 	3 Help your child write a valentine's note or card to a friend or family member. Send it in the mail. 	4 Learn about the Seven Grandfather teachings and the animals Mishliike (Turtle), Migizi (Eagle), Amik (Beaver), Mash-kodebzhiki (Buffalo), Makwa (Bear), Sabe (Bigfoot), Sasquatch, Ma'iinhagan (Wolf)	5 Use bathtub crayons or shaving cream to create letters during bath time. 	6 Include your child in setting the table for supper. Count out the number of utensils, plates and bowls needed.	7 Chant and sing nursery rhymes and other rhyming focused songs together e.g. Down By the Bay 	8 Create a writer's kit by gathering markers, paper, envelopes, stickers etc. and putting them into a bin or shoebox.
9 Build a cozy fort with blankets and pillows. Cuddle up and read! 	10 Play a game by taking turns finding something in the room that starts with each letter of the alphabet.	11 Bring the story to life by adding props such as puppets or simple toys that relate to the story. 	12 Visit a little free library in your community. Find a community list by clicking here . Take a book and leave one as well!	13 When using play dough, create lines and curves to form letters. Discuss the letters that are in family members names.	14  Happy Valentine's Day! Together read through any valentines your child may have received.	15 Use masking tape to create lines and roads on the floor. Have your child use small cars to follow the lines.
16 À l'épicerie, demandez à votre enfant de trouver différents aliments que vous nommerez en français.	17 Happy Family Day! Take turns telling stories about your favourite moments together.	18 Consider giving your child some recycled items for their next creative craft time! 	19 Include a scavenger hunt on your next family winter walk. Find a printable one online or this one here .	20 Make a grocery list, cutting and gluing pictures from store flyers. 	21 At the grocery store, have your child help read the list, search for items and cross them off your list.	22  Include your child in making supper! Search for a recipe, follow it and prepare the meal together.
23 Create a chart with pictures and words of your bedtime routine to provide visual reminders for your child.	24  Try going screen-free for a day! Gather some books, go for a walk, put on a puppet show and be creative!	25 Put salt, shaving cream or chocolate pudding on a cookie sheet. Have your child use their finger to draw lines and letters.	Monday, 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.			

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 repetitious. 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 your 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 ____