



## HELLO PARENTS,

Family Literacy Day is celebrated each year on January 27th. This day celebrates literacy as a fun learning experience for the whole family. Reading a book together, writing a story, or telling a tale are moments to cherish, while providing your child with enriching learning experiences that expand their vocabulary, develop early reading abilities, and verbal communication skills. Literacy stimulates a child's imagination, and their understanding of the world. This year, the theme of Family Literacy Day is: "Travel the World Together!" This is particularly fitting to our organization, as New Canadians' Centre of Excellence Inc. welcomes families from many different countries, and is truly home "home to the world!" Let us celebrate our unique diversity, while engaging in enriching literacy-based activities.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Children spend five times longer outside the classroom as they do in school. This is why literacy at home is very important.
- Children whose parents are involved with them in family literacy activities score 10 points higher on standardized reading tests.
- Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory.
- Reading teaches children empathy, giving them a window into perspectives and feelings of others.
- Through literacy, children learn communication skills, and build emotional and social resilience.

## FAMILY LITERACY DAY ACTIVITIES

### FAMILY BOOK CLUB

#### MATERIALS:

- Books, for all reading levels

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Tell your family that you are going to start a family book club.
- Pick one evening of the week where all family members will be present to participate in the book club.
- To make the evening fun, prepare delicious and nutritious snacks which can be enjoyed during the book club meeting.
- Select a book which can be read during the book club.
- During the family book club evening, read the book together as a family. Family members can take turns reading the book to one another.
- During the meeting, and throughout the following week, your family can discuss the book. Have some in-depth conversation with your child about what you read together.
- Once you have read and discussed the book in full, you may ask your child to choose a new book.
- Continue this every week, with different genres and styles of books.

[Click here](#) for a list of movies based on books! Enjoy these movies after reading the books with your children.

### TRAVEL THE WORLD: STORY BAGS

#### MATERIALS:

- Baskets, or bags
- Objects that have special meaning to you, or may be relevant to your own culture or a country where you would like to travel. For example, photos of your native country or of a country of interest, toys, a favourite book, a piece of traditional clothing, etc.

#### DIRECTIONS:

- Each member of your family should have one basket or bag.
- Fill the basket/bag with objects that have special meaning for each member of the family. For example: your child can put a toy or a drawing, whereas a parent can put a photo and a book into the basket/bag.
- Consider including items that reflect your own culture, or other countries in the world, where you would like to travel.
- Once your baskets/bags are full, each person should tell a story based on the objects that they have inside their bags. Explain to your child that the stories can be either fiction or non-fiction.
- If your items reflect various countries, or places that you would like to travel, include these details in your story! Share memories, or stories about global journeys!
- Enjoy sharing and listening to each family member's unique stories.

[Click here](#) to learn how to make a vocabulary jar.

### ALPHABET CARDS

#### MATERIALS:

- Paper, or cue cards
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils

#### DIRECTIONS:

- On cue cards, write each letter of the alphabet.
- Draw different pictures on the rest of the cue cards. Make sure that each card has a picture, which begins with a letter of the alphabet. For example: for letter "A" you may draw an apple on a cue card!
- Once you are finished drawing pictures on the cue cards, colour the drawings.
- Now, let's play! Put the letter cards in the middle of a table.
- Split the picture cards evenly between all players, so there will not be any cards left.
- When it is a player's turn, turn over one letter card. If you have a picture beginning with the letter, keep the letter card and cover the picture with it.
- The winner is the first person to cover all their pictures.

[Click here](#) to learn how to play the sound matching game.

[Click here](#) for more information about Family Literacy Day.

[Click here](#) for more Family Literacy Day activities.

### A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read together anytime possible. This will allow parents to model fluency, expression, and pronunciation.
- Take advantage of the many literacy resources available online, including websites offering content such as printable activity packages and reading games.
- Initiate dinner table discussions, and encourage your child to communicate verbally.
- Explore print and language in the real world. For example, read a cookbook with your child, and show them how you follow the steps to make cookies, or listen to audio books together as a family.