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## Kindergarten Newsletter

### Raising Readers and Writers



Literacy development begins at birth. It is a continuous process beginning at home with parents playing a key role. The following ideas can help to promote the development of beginning literacy skills.

**Let your child see you read and write everyday.** It is important for children to see their parents as readers- reading magazines, newspapers, recipes, novels, the calendar or the television guide. It is important for children to see their parents as writers- writing letters, a grocery list, a card, notes, a list of things to do, cheques or working on the computer.

**Read to your child everyday** from a variety of books- fairytales, folktales, nursery rhymes, alphabet books, patterned books, and non-fiction books. Talk about the stories and the pictures. Ask questions to develop understanding: Where does the story take place? Who is in the story? What do you think is going to happen next? Why do you think so?

**Sing songs and recite familiar rhymes with your child** in English or your first language. It helps children develop an awareness of rhythm, rhyme, words and sounds.

**Point out letters and words in your child's surroundings.** Name the letters or words on boxes or can labels, road signs, restaurant signs, logos on clothes or posters.

**Encourage your child to form and print his/her name.** Children can create and say the letters in their names using alphabet blocks, magnetic letters or alphabet cereal. Children can trace their names in flour, pudding or jell-o powders. They can print their names on greeting cards and their drawings.

**Let your child write from an early age.** Respond with interest to the printed message whether it is a scribble, letters or words. Ask your child to write the sounds heard in words. Scribbles and random marks or letters are important early stages of writing.

**Have a variety of writing and drawing materials readily available for your child.** Provide pencils, pens, markers, crayons, chalk, old magazines, discarded flyers, scissors, glue, unlined paper, notepads and colouring books.

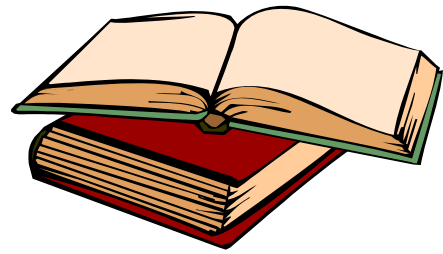


## Make Reading Fun...

- 📖 Invest in books with accompanying audiocassettes.
- 📖 Visit the local library and let your child apply for his or her own library card.
- 📖 Take books with you in the car or on bus trips.
- 📖 Let your child pick out books that will interest him or her.
- 📖 Snuggle up in a cozy place and read together.

## Make Writing Fun...

- ✍️ Keep various writing tools and materials readily available.
- ✍️ Purchase inexpensive magnetic letters for the refrigerator door.
- ✍️ Write special notes and cards to family and friends.
- ✍️ Make signs for the bedroom and around the house.
- ✍️ Make a list and go shopping together!



## Great Books for Young Children...

- **Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?** by Bill Martin Jr.
- **Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom!** by Bill Martin J.
- **Good Night, Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown
- **No David!** By David Shannon
- **Each Peach, Pear Plum** by Janet & Allen Ahlberg
- **Have You Seen My Duckling?** by Nancy Tafuri
- **Rosie's Walk** by Pat Hutchins
- **Look! Look! Look!** By Tana Hoban
- **Freight Train** by Donald Crews
- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
- **Corduroy** by Don Freeman
- **Sing a Song of Mother Goose** by Barbara Reid
- **Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak
- **Stanley's Wild Ride** by Linda Bailey



**The Toronto Catholic District School Board**

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