

Early Literacy Workshop Descriptions for Website

Toddler-School Age

Cool Fridge Magnet Fun

Turn time in the kitchen into a language, letter and literacy smorgasbord of learning. Kids will eat up these games. While the eggs are being scrambled, youngsters can unscramble the fridge magnets and learn the alphabet. Fridge magnets are colourful, fun, inexpensive, and a great way to teach alphabetic knowledge; a key skill needed for kindergarten success.

Look for Books

What to choose, what to choose...So many book choices but what is a good book for my child? Explore the features that you can look for in quality children's books. Check out a variety of picture books for children of all ages.

Perfect Time for a Nursery Rhyme (a story stretcher workshop)

Reading nursery rhymes is an especially powerful tool. Children, who are familiar with nursery rhymes when they enter kindergarten, often have an easier time learning to read. Want some activities to help your child focus on the oral skills found in nursery rhymes? We'll show you some great ones. Activities are suitable for 1-7 year olds.

How Kids Learn To Read

What is early literacy? What is reading? When do kids start printing, spelling, and writing? How can parents most effectively enrich and expand the emergent reading skills of their youngsters? We will provide some answers and strategies to use with children at home. We'll show you how to read aloud to your child and feel comfortable with storytime. Schools build on the successful learning provided in the home by parents. Grab a book!

Early Reading Games to Make for Home

FROG! "The Big-Mouthed Frog", a pop-up book by Keith Faulkner is the highlighted in this workshop.

Turn off the t.v., put the video games down for a minute and play some fun early reading games instead. This sampling of early reading games, will include activities that support and encourage alphabetic and phonological awareness skills; critical to a youngster's early literacy and language development. This is a make 'n take workshop.

Electric Heads-Smarter Brains Smarter Kids

Plug into your child's learning. The brain is electrical. Every second of the day, millions of impulses race along millions of neural superhighways, searching for a new neural neighborhood to grow up in. When a child learns something new, they change their wiring and the brain reshapes itself again. It is truly amazing. Learn about the fantastic electrical show taking place in your child's brain. Learn how to strengthen early learning and literacy in the early years-the critical years.

Book Making for Youngsters

It's simple, fun and a wonderful keeper. Bookmaking is a great way for parents to encourage oral language, fine motor skills, letter recognition, and early print activities. Cutting, pasting, and colouring help develop those early book handling behaviours so important to early reading success. Several bookmaking options will be provided. There may be supplies requested to be provided by the sponsor, for this workshop.

House Full of Treasures

Make your own early literacy activities from items lying around the house. This is a golden opportunity to save some coin and spend time with your child. A display of 20+ "jewels of ideas" will be showcased. This one is sure to set you on your own adventure to dig up some gems in your house. Don't throw anything out-yet! You'll treasure all the ideas provided in this workshop.

Stretching Stories

Have MORE fun, after the book is done! These workshops will provide some, easy to create at home, early literacy activities, that make the story POP off the pages. A Canadian authored children's book is highlighted. Both titles are found in the Early Years collection given to childcare centres, Early Years Centres and kindergarten classrooms throughout Ontario.

- **Red is Best – "My mom doesn't understand about red."** This classic children's book is a wonderful story about colours and Kelly's clothes. The workshop provides 6-10 activities based on concepts presented in the story. Participants will be shown how to create some science (colour), art, poetry, visual discrimination, and print activities; that support critical early literacy skills. Related literature will be showcased.
- **One Gray Mouse – "One gray mouse in a black mouse house"** This story follows a mouse as he travels page after page meeting some colourful creatures. Simple rhyming text will have you counting your way to the big comfy chair! Come and enjoy a wonderful story for our youngest ones. This workshop will share 6-10 activities to play at home with children. The concepts of counting, colour, prediction, rhyme and visual discrimination are showcased using this story. Related literature will be on display.

Make and Take Carousel

(staff commitment to assist at this workshop is required. Pre-workshop meeting is often scheduled with staff)
Parents can support their child's early literacy and language development at home with these inexpensive, easy to make activities. This presentation is fun, fast, colourful and packed with great ideas! It is wonderful opportunity for parents to learn ways to make your own games at home. There are 4-5 different coloured stations: Red, Blue, Green and Yellow. Participants rotate around the room, every 15 minutes, making a different item at each stop. Parents will cut, colour, paste and have a great time networking during this 1 ½ hr. workshop. For parents of JK/SK/Gr.1

Board Games and Early Literacy

Games can provide a relaxed and informal learning situation, free from tension and anxiety. Just by virtue of playing them, board games can teach important early literacy skills so critical to early reading success. Play some award winning board games that are sure to be fun for big people too! Unique and award winning board games will be showcased in this workshop.

Brain Gym for Kids

Quick drills that wake up, energize or calm the brain and body, so children can learn and concentrate better. Teachers understand the benefits of these simple, easy techniques. Learn about Lazy 8's, Belly Buttons, Cross-Overs, Hook-ups and the P.A.C.E. technique.

Phonics is Phun!

Activities are suitable for 3-7 year olds.

What's the letters sound? This word begins with what sound? Can you pick out a rhyming word? How many syllables do you hear? One of the most important skills we can give our children is **an awareness of the sounds of our language**. Learn to play some phonological and phonemic awareness games. Fun phonics activities will be demonstrated for parents. Make an early literacy activity to play at home.

Early Math and Picture Books

Activities are suitable for 3-7 year olds.

Picture books and songs are full of wonderful examples of the early math skills children will need to know. The 5 strands of the Kindergarten/Gr. 1 Ontario curriculum will be presented and a display of appropriate children's picture books will be showcased. Some songs will also be highlighted. This is a great workshop demonstrating the early math/literature connection.

Getting Ready for Real School

School readiness begins well before a child's 4th birthday. This workshop will provide information on: What we mean by school readiness, the school's expectations and what parents can do to help their youngsters, be ready for kindergarten.

Infant – Toddler Age

House Full of Treasures-BABIES

A treasure trove of brain building activities could be sitting around your castle. You don't need to be rich to help your baby learn! Simple activities that encourage coping and practicing skills early in babies' lives can help them learn and develop.

Dig into this chest of great home made toys and activities sure to engage your baby's brain. The presentation will focus on 4 Natural "Brain Wired" areas: Seeing, Touching, Language (hearing & talking), and Movement.

Brainier Babies

The brain of a baby is growing at warp speed! Learn how you can make your baby smarter while doing everyday activities. Research on the brain tells us that 0-3 years of age are critical years for shaping a young child's brain. Learn about the "windows of opportunity", in a baby's brain development. If appropriate "experience" is provided, it will help grow a baby's brain. Do you know when these developmental times are occurring?

The latest brain books and resources will be highlighted at this workshop.

Splish! Splash!

They get dirty, you have to bath them. Splash a song, float a boat, fill and spill. Bath time provides an ideal opportunity to teach language and develop your little swimmer's oral language, listening and early math skills. Tub talk is really fun. Ideas galore!

Small Talk

Explore the language of babies. This is a presentation about the development and understanding of both the spoken language and body language of young children. The workshop is targeted for babies 0-36months of age. Shorter presentations are available for audiences with babies in the following three age groups. 0-12mons, 12-24 mons. or 24-36 mons.

Look for Books - Babies

Can a book help a baby's vision develop? Does how a book feels and how it is made matter? What features should you look for when you are providing your baby with books to chew on and rip apart. Research says certain attributes found in children's books, are preferable for a baby's learning. This workshop will showcase many samples of books.

ECE Practitioners & Teachers, OEYC's, Service Agency Professionals

Emergent Literacy Checklist Training (3)

Each workshop is 2 hrs.

Step up the level of your literacy environment for children, families and your community. Earn credits towards your "Raising the Bar" accreditation program. The Emergent Literacy Checklist is a reflective, self-assessment tool that enables child care programs to better evaluate their environments, their interactions with children and families, and their communication and collaborations with their community. The program is offered in 3 sessions. Checklists and all materials are provided free of charge. Certificates are awarded to everyone who attends at all three sessions. This program is co-facilitated by Early Literacy Specialist-Ontario Early Years Program and Speech and Language Pathologist from kidsAbility. Check to see when next series is being offered.

Family Math Facilitator Training-Early Years Program (3-6 year olds)

Workshop is 7 hrs.

Background: *Family Math is a community-based program for families who would like their children to experience success in Math. Family Math sessions educate parents to work and play with their children (3-6 yrs.) in order to develop positive attitudes towards mathematics. An important component of the Family Math program is the "Literature Connection" evident in each session. Children develop a love for reading when parents read to them on a regular basis. A love for mathematics develops in the same way. The program includes the five strands of the Ontario mathematics curriculum for JK, SK and Gr. 1.*

The Family Math program was developed at the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Education with a grant from Esso Canada, by Dr. Barry Onslow and his team. A Family Math parent workshop runs for 6 sessions. Parents and their children (3-6 yrs.) attend together, and all are actively involved in doing mathematics. Helping parents expand their parenting skills is an important component of Family Math.

The Training Day: Family Math- Early Years (3-6 year olds)

This 7 hour workshop, provides teachers/facilitators with the training skills in the Family Math program. After this training day, you can begin to provide this program in your school or community setting. Certificates are presented for completion of this training. There is a cost to attend.

Family Math Facilitator Training-Gr.2-Gr.5 Program

Workshop is 7 hrs.

Background: Family Math Gr. 2- Gr.5: is a community-based program for families who would like their children to experience success in math. The program was developed at the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Education with a grant from Esso Canada, by Dr. Barry Onslow and his team. Involvement in Family Math provides parents with the confidence to better help their children enjoy and understand math in a positive environment. Games and readily available resources are employed to help move mathematics from the abstract world of symbolism to the concrete world of reality. Inexpensive materials of all kinds-stones, playing cards and coins - are used to help families learn about mathematical concepts. Parents and their children (Gr. 2 – Gr. 5)

attend together, and all are actively involved in *doing* mathematics. Families participate in 6 sessions.

Family Math sessions educate parents to work and play with their children in order to develop positive attitudes towards mathematics. An important component of the Family Math program is the "Literature Connection" evident in each session. The coding used on the *Where's the Math?* pages is based on the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training's 1997 elementary mathematics curriculum G2-G5. Grade two students in Ontario are about eight years of age and grade five children are approximately eleven years old.

The **TI-10/15** calculator is used in this training. Please bring along if you have one.

The Training Day: Family Math- Gr. 2-Gr. 5 Program

This 7 hour workshop, provides teachers/facilitators with the training skills in the Family Math program. After this training day, you can begin to provide this program in your school or community setting. Certificates are presented for completion of this training. There is a cost to attend.

Smarter Brains – Smarter Kids

Workshop is 1 ½- 2 hrs.

You can help build smarter kids! Learn about the brain and what scientists are saying. What good is the brain research if it isn't made understandable and practical for the people who work with children? This workshop will provide practical strategies and activities to use in your programming. The early years are critical years for brain wiring, brain shaping and intelligence building.

Spaces for Launching Literacy and Language

Workshop is 2 hrs.

Let's explore strategies for creating rich and exciting, "out of this world" learning environments to stimulate early literacy and language development in youngsters. Participants will do their own brain compatibility survey. Several environmental checklists will be distributed. Some brain based research will be presented.

Brainiacs in the Hood!

Workshop is 2 hrs.

Explore the most recent findings of early brain development and "critical periods". Using **Little Red Riding Hood** as the focus, a variety of strategies to enhance early language in your preschool program, will be shared. This workshop includes a make 'n take component.

Early Literacy Research – Practical Program Applications

Workshop is 2 hrs.

What is the connection between the newest scientific research around early learning and early literacy and language development in young children? This workshop will be of interest to teachers of toddlers, preschoolers and school aged children. Ideas you can use daily in your program, learning style models and current brain based research will be highlighted.

Old MacDonald Had A Farm

Workshop is 2 hrs.

This familiar story is full of fun, early learning activities parents can take home and play. We'll show you ways to stretch this story once the book has been read.

Components of learning covered in the workshop include : animals on the farm, food on the farm, life on the farm and celebrate farms. Many activities will be shown and props will be on display for you to peruse. The ideas from this workshops cross all curriculum strands.

Brain Jeopardy

Workshop is 2 hrs.

Your staff can show off their game show skills, while participating in a fast paced game of Brain Jeopardy. This workshop will highlight what the research is telling us about brain development in young children. The latest brain information is very exciting and participants will have fun as their team shows how much smarter they have become! Always a winner's prize awarded in this workshop.