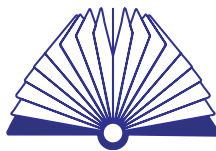


How To Kit



Family Literacy Activities Night 2



NWT Literacy Council



Other How To Kits & Literacy Activities

This *How To Kit* was developed to help organizations celebrate literacy in the NWT. It is one in a series of *How to Kits* that you can download from the NWT Literacy Council website at www.nwt.literacy.ca. You are welcome to photocopy and use the activities in your programs, or adapt them to your needs.

How To Kits Developed to Date:

- 1-2-3 Rhyme with Me
- Community Book Swap
- Family Reading Party
- Games Night
- Literacy Treasure Hunt
- Pyjamas and Book Party
- Reading Circles and Story Extenders
- Scattergories
- Storytime on the Radio
- Family Literacy Activities Night
- Book Making
- Literacy Games for Adults
- Get Caught Reading & Other Promotion Ideas
- Election
- Environmental Print Games
- Involving Families in Children's Learning
- Literacy Activities for Holidays – Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Easter, Birthdays
- Puppet Making
- Writing Contest
- Culture and Traditions
- Books in the Home
- Facilitating a Workshop
- Talking Books
- Readers Theatre
- **Family Literacy Activities Night 2**
- **Books in the Home Kit – Love You Forever**
- **Word & Picture Bingos**

New!

You will also find other activities on our website that you are welcome to download and use.

NWT Literacy Council

Box 761

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6

Phone: 867-873-9262 Fax: 867-873-2176

Toll Free in the NWT: 1-866-599-6758

Email: info@nwtliteracy.ca

Website: www.nwt.literacy.ca





Family Literacy Activities Night

There are many activities that families can do together to support their children's literacy development: reading or telling stories together, cooking, saying rhymes, playing games, or making family books. This *How to Kit* will give you some tips and ideas for activities that you can do with families to encourage families to become involved in their children's literacy development. You can run one evening of family literacy activities or you can run a series of evenings. Whatever you do, make it fun!

In this *How to Kit*, you will find . . .

- ✓ Information on how to organize a family literacy activities night.
- ✓ Some tip sheets for parents to help them support their children's literacy development.
- ✓ Ideas for some simple activities that parents can do at home with their children.
- ✓ Posters and invitations to advertise your event.





Steps to Organizing a Family Literacy Activities Night

1. Decide on a date for the event. Try to avoid clashing with other community events. That way you will get more people to come out.



2. Find a space in the community to hold the event - school, band office, nursing station, library, community hall.



3. Advertise the **Family Literacy Activities Night** at least one week before the event. Put posters up around the community, advertise on the local radio station, or green screen and hand out invitations at the school. Tell everyone about it! Posters and invitations are included in this package.

4. A **Family Literacy Activities Night** can include a variety of things, such as:

- a. Storytelling by elders.
- b. Reading circles or a reading party.
- c. Reading bingo or picture bingo.
- d. A variety of family literacy centres -
 - A reading circle centre.
 - A craft centre, where people create literacy activities to use at home.
 - A games centre, where people create games that teach your children about words and numbers.





Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT



- “My family” centre where families work on a family storytelling bag together
5. Decide on the activities that you would like to do for the event. If you are having centres, prepare them ahead of time. Make sure that you have all the materials you need for each centre.
 6. Welcome families as they arrive.
 7. Make sure that the families have an opportunity to visit each centre and to work together at the centres. Encourage parents/caregivers to take home the materials that they have made and use them with their children.
 8. Have a snack at the end of the night and invite families to come again.
 9. Call the NWT Literacy Council if you would like help with your event. Within the NWT, the NWT Literacy Council can provide free books for prizes, help with the organization of the event and provide training for facilitators.
 10. Ask the local paper to come to your event and do a story about family literacy.





Tips for Parents: Your Important Role

What is your role as a parent in your children's learning?

As a parent, you play a big part in helping your children learn: You are your children's "first" and most important teacher.

Children need time with you. When they spend time with you and get the attention they need from you, they feel more secure and confident. They will have higher self-esteem too. Creating a safe and loving family environment lays the foundation for life-long learning and emotional well-being.

Talking with your children and communicating feelings is one of the most important things you can do with them. When you communicate with your children, children learn:

- ✓ How to use language.
- ✓ How to communicate.
- ✓ How to have a conversation with others.

Communicating can happen any time and any place . . .

- ✓ In the truck.
- ✓ Out on the land.
- ✓ While doing the chores.
- ✓ At mealtimes and bedtime.
- ✓ Any time and any place!



By talking and listening to your child, you are creating a foundation for good communication habits that will help make them more confident, and be more successful at school.





Tips for Parents: Oral Language Development

Why is oral language development so important?

Oral language development is the first step in children's literacy development. Before they learn to speak, they need to listen to you talk to learn the rhythm of the language. It is through listening and using language that children learn. They later move on to understand print. Many families in the NWT have a rich tradition of oral language.

What can I do to help my children's oral language development?

- ✓ Talk to your children regularly to let them hear the rhythm of the language.
- ✓ Here are some good ways to get your children to use language. Encourage your children to join in:
 - Rhymes.
 - Songs.
 - Finger plays.
 - Storytelling.
- ✓ Use your children's first language.
- ✓ Tell your children stories or ask your children to tell you stories. Reading and writing builds on children's ability to tell stories orally.





Tips for Parents: Reading

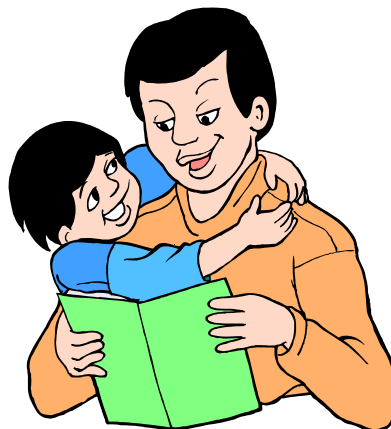
What can I do to help my children learn to read?

- ✓ Let them see you reading.
- ✓ Share books together.
- ✓ Point out the print that is all around you. Look at street signs, grocery store labels, posters.
- ✓ Make scrapbooks from photos or old magazines.
- ✓ Cook together.



Steps for reading with your children

- ✓ Choose a book from the library or from your home. It's even better if you let your children choose.
- ✓ Take turns reading aloud, or tell the story by looking at the pictures.
- ✓ Talk about what's happening in the story.
- ✓ Help your children with difficult words.
- ✓ Praise your children.





Tips for Parents: Writing

What can I do to help my children learn to write?

Let your children watch when you:

- ✓ Fill in forms, or pay bills.
- ✓ Write birthday cards.
- ✓ Write letters and notes.
- ✓ Write shopping lists



Let your children help when you are writing by:

- ✓ Putting a scribble or drawing round their hand on a greeting card.
- ✓ Helping with a shopping list.
- ✓ Drawing a picture that goes with what you are writing.

Let your children scribble and draw. This is the beginning stages of writing. Pretending to write is OK too. **Start early!**

What materials will I need to encourage writing at home?

- ✓ Make sure you always have writing materials available:
 - Lots of paper.
 - Pens, pencils, crayons and markers.
 - Scissors and glue.
 - Old envelopes or greeting cards for kids to copy.
 - Little blank books for children to make their stories.
 - A box to keep all the materials in.



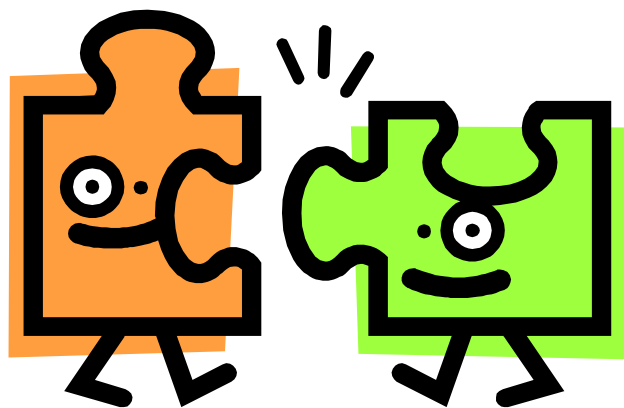


Tips for Parents: Games

Games are a great way to spend time with your children and a great way to help them learn. They teach all different kinds of skills.

Why are games an important way to learn?

- ✓ Games make learning fun!
- ✓ Board and card games help children to match pictures and words. This is an important reading skill.
- ✓ Board games teach visual skills. They can help your child recognize symbols, signs, letters, understand maps, and so on.
- ✓ Even simple games, such as Snakes and Ladders, can help children with numbers.
- ✓ Games, such as Scrabble, encourage your children to read.
- ✓ Games help teach your children important social skills.
- ✓ Games are easy to make. You can design some specially for your children.
- ✓ You can make and play games in any language.





Tips for Parents: Literacy Activities to Do at Home

- ✓ Read to your children before bedtime every night.
- ✓ Bake your favourite recipe.
- ✓ Cook meals together.
- ✓ Tell stories to your children about when you were growing up.
- ✓ Tell stories to your children about when they were born.
- ✓ Tell traditional stories about your culture.
- ✓ Play cards together.
- ✓ Talk to your children about their day.
- ✓ Play board games together (scrabble, monopoly, pictionary, etc.).
- ✓ Look at family photos together and talk about them.
- ✓ Make up stories together about family photos.
- ✓ Take lots of pictures and do scrap-booking.

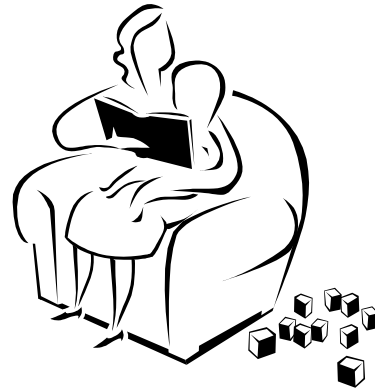




Tips for Parents

What do children learn when we read to them?

- ✓ New words.
- ✓ Enjoyment of a story.
- ✓ Focus, concentration.
- ✓ How to use their imaginations.
- ✓ How to predict.
- ✓ The connections between words and pictures.
- ✓ The relationship between words and sounds.
- ✓ How to read from left to right.
- ✓ How to follow a story from beginning to end.
- ✓ Listening skills.
- ✓ Communication skills.
- ✓ Knowledge or information in the story.
- ✓ Sharing and enjoyment of a special activity.





A Family Reading Party

This is an easy activity for a family literacy activities night. You can do it either as a whole group activity or as a centre activity with a smaller group. Here's how to do it.

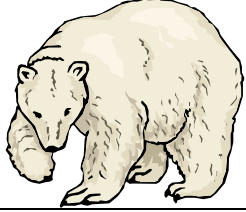
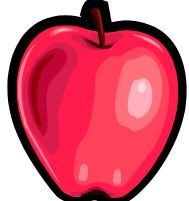




1. Have lots of books available for families to choose from.
2. Have children read with their parents and other family members, or ask them to show their family some of their favourite books.
3. Give out small prizes to the “readers” to celebrate their achievements.
4. Set up a reading circle in the room and have a volunteer read a story to the families.
5. Hand out family literacy tip sheets for families to take home.





Make your own games: Matching words

- ✓ Make a snap or matching game by matching words and pictures. You can use pictures from magazines or draw your own. Example:

bear	
apple	
truck	
bed	
dog	
sun	

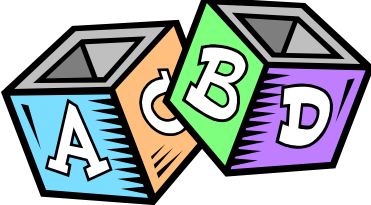

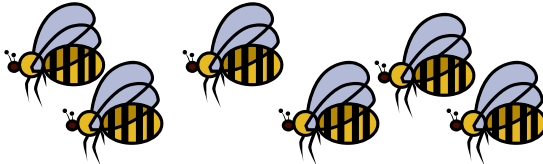

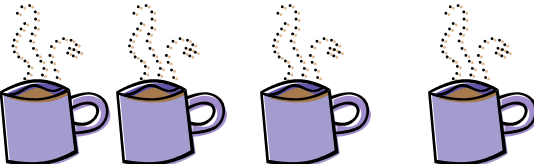
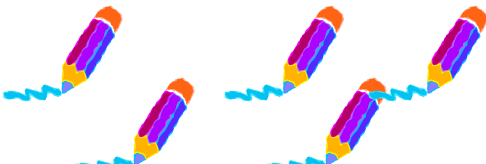




Make your own games: Matching Numbers

- ✓ Make up number cards with your children using stickers.

Example:

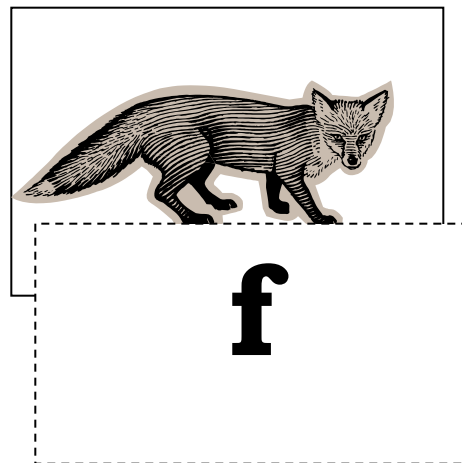
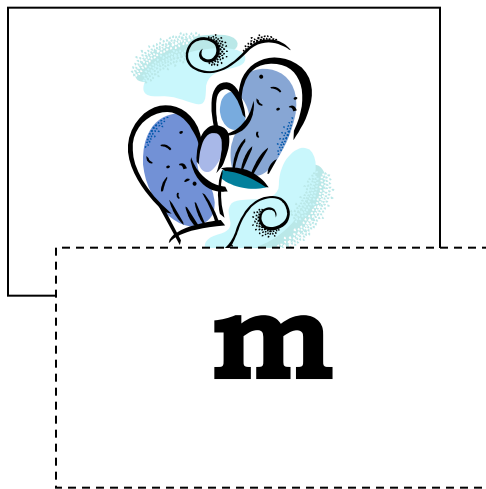
2	
1	
6	
3	
4	
5	





Make your own games: Alphabet cards

- ✓ Make a word game with letters and pictures. Make a letter card for each letter of the alphabet and put the letter cards in the middle of the table. Give each player a pile of picture cards. Turn up the letter cards one by one. If you have a picture beginning with that letter, you keep the letter card and cover the picture with it. The winner is the first person to cover all their pictures. Example:





Make your own games: Name game

- ✓ Write each letter of your child's name on an index card and lay them out on the table. Have your child put the cards in order to spell their name. Use a capital letter for the first letter. Example: Susan

n

S

a

u

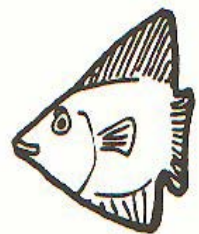
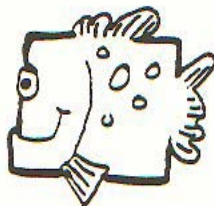
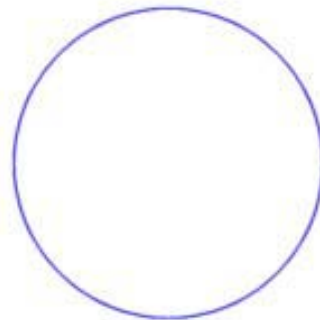
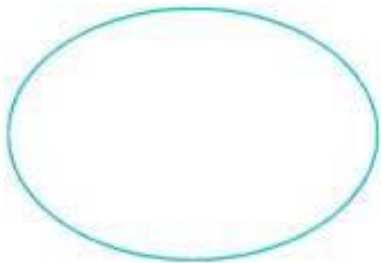
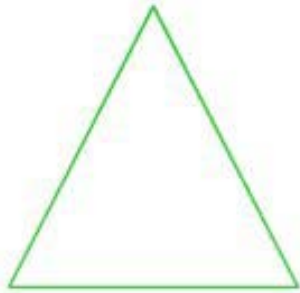
S





Make your own games: Fun with Shapes

Cut out the fish at the bottom of the page. Glue each fish into the tank that has the same shape as the fish.

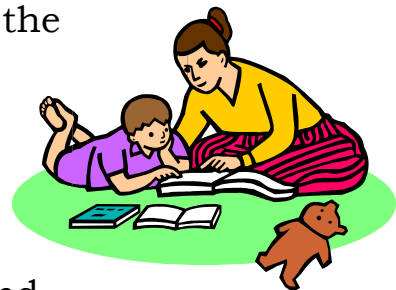




Make your own games: Memory game

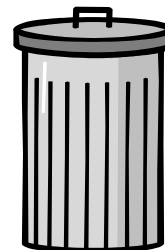
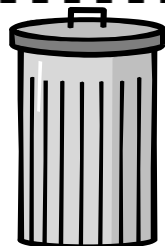
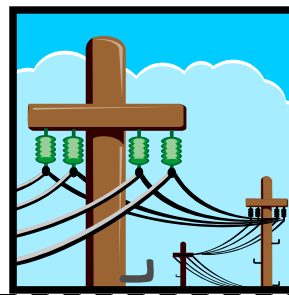
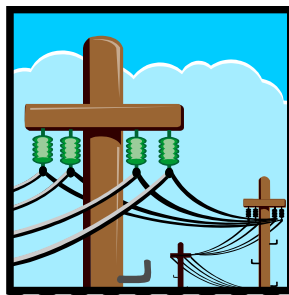
Here's how to make and play the memory game:

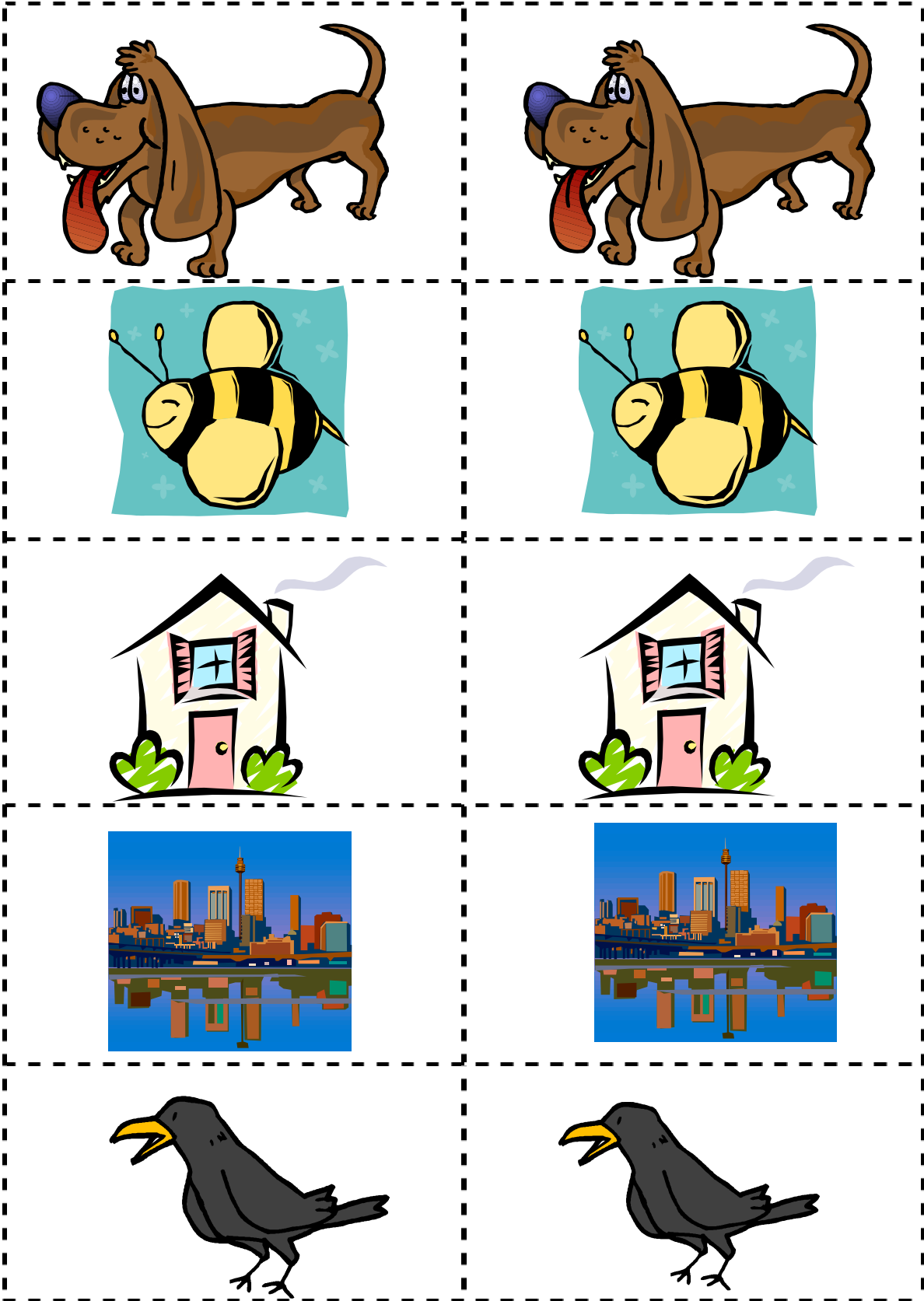
- ✓ Glue the following sheets of pictures on the following two pages to cardboard or some other type of backing, such as cereal boxes.
- ✓ Cut the sheets into individual pictures.
- ✓ Mix up the pictures and turn them face down.
- ✓ Each player flips over two squares at a time and tries to find matching pairs.
- ✓ Each player should say what the picture is each time they flip a square over.
- ✓ One person can play as well. Just flip the cards over, two at a time, and try to find matching pairs.



This Memory Game has pictures, but you can also play it with words, or with words and pictures. Just write the words you want to play with in boxes, like the pictures. You need two sets of each word, or one set of pictures and one set of words. In that case, you have to match the picture and the word.



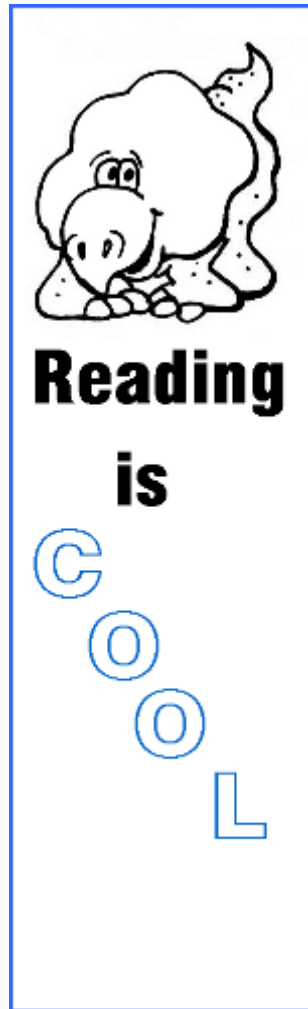
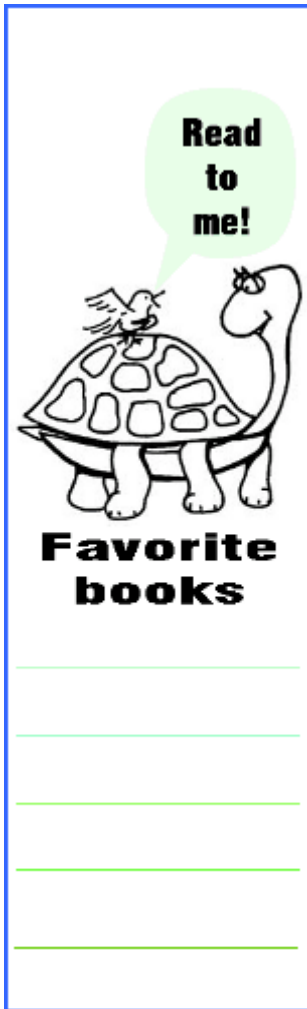




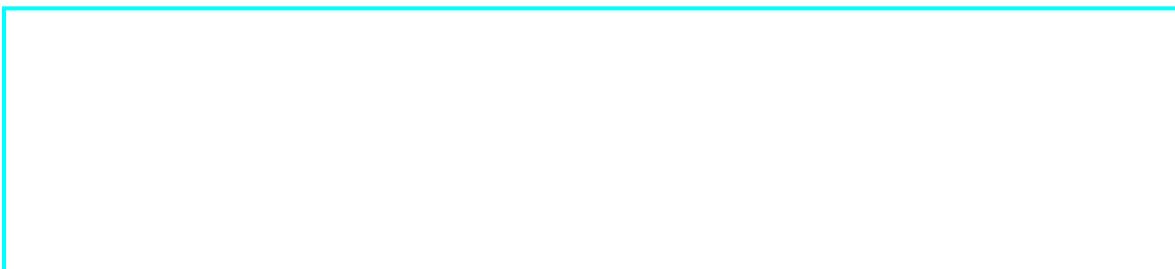


Make Your Own Bookmarks

Color the pictures then cut out each bookmark along the border and paste onto a thick cardboard or other thick backing, such as cereal boxes.



Now design your own bookmark!

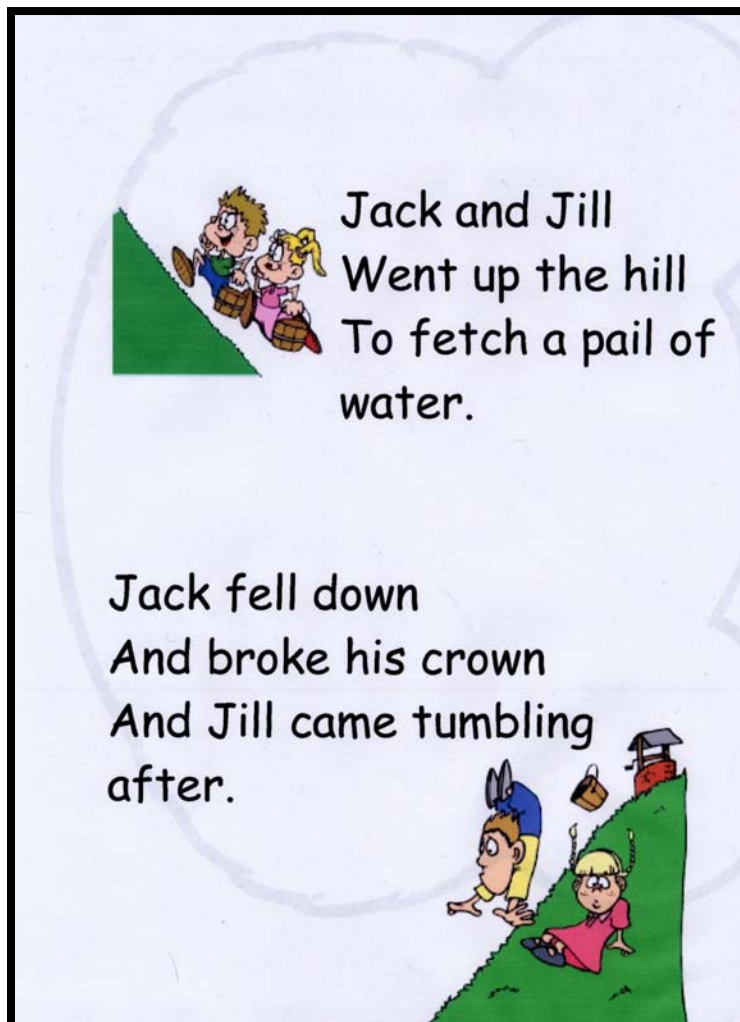




Rhyming Cards

Cut out the following rhyming cards and laminate them with packing tape. You may want to colour them also. Use these cards with your children. You can read them together and learn the rhymes. Practice the rhymes each day. This will help your children with their language development. Make up your own rhymes in your own language!

Rhyming
Card #1





Rhyming Card #2

Star bright

Star light

First Star

I see tonight



I wish I may

I wish I might

Have the wish

I wish tonight





Rhyming Card #3



I'm a great big snowman,

Tall and fat.

Here is my tummy

And here is my hat.

Raisins for my eyes,

And a carrot nose,

I'm all snow from head to toe.





Family Story Bags

Family story bags are fun! Here's how to make one.

- ✓ Before the family literacy activities night, let families know that you will be making a family story bag.
- ✓ Have families gather some objects that have some meaning for them and their children. This may include photos, toys, a favourite book, a piece of clothing. You want enough objects to be able to tell stories using the things in your bag. Children can draw pictures.
- ✓ Families should bring some of these things with them so that they can put them in their bag.
- ✓ Use a piece of canvas fabric, moosehide or other material to make the bag. You can also use a box or basket.
- ✓ Use the things in the bag to tell stories about your family.





Family Story Bags (cont.)

Here are some things you can include in a family story bag:

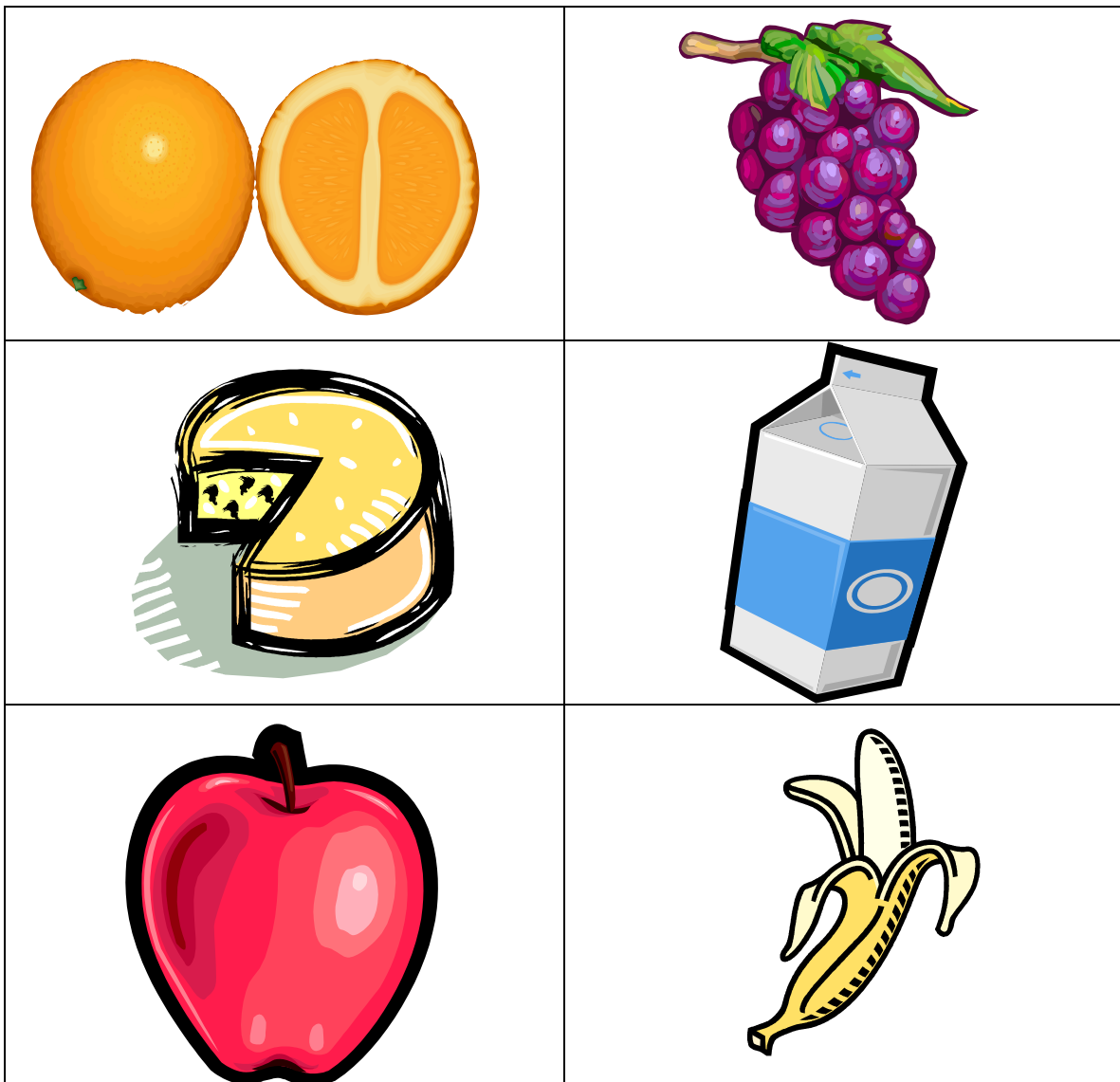
- ✓ Photos of different family members: parents, sisters, brothers, grandparents, and so on.
- ✓ Photos of different places – especially places where you do things as a family: home, camp, secret fishing spot, etc.
- ✓ Things with special meaning for your family:
 - Some of your child’s “firsts” - his first tooth, his first pair of shoes, the first book he read, a card with the first word he said.
 - Pictures of some things you like to do together as a family.
 - A recipe for a favourite family meal.
- ✓ A copy of a book you like to read together, or an audiotape of the family reading the book together.
- ✓ A favourite toy.
- ✓ A tape you’ve made yourselves of a favourite family song.
- ✓ ANYTHING that lets you tell stories.





Grocery Cards

- ✓ Cut out these cards and colour them with your children.
- ✓ Paste them onto card stock or cardboard.
- ✓ Write the name of the item on the back.
- ✓ Laminate the cards with packing tape.
- ✓ When you go grocery shopping give your children the card and ask them to go get the item.
- ✓ Make up your own cards with pictures from magazines.







Household Labels

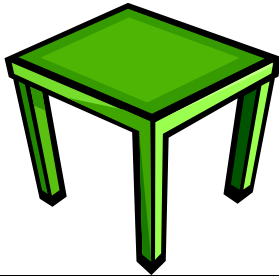
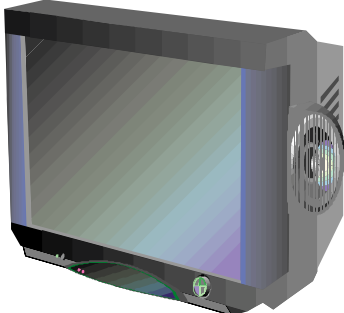

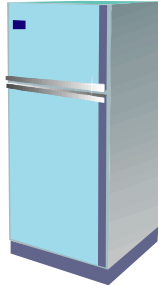



Matching the word to the picture is a great way to teach any language!

- ✓ Fill in the blank set of labels next to the pictures of household items on the next three pages using your own language.
- ✓ Have your children help you write out the labels.
- ✓ Glue the labels onto pieces of cardboard, such as cereal boxes.
- ✓ Put the labels up around the house.
- ✓ Every night before your children go to bed, have them say all the labels in their room or around the house.
- ✓ You can also use these pictures and words as a matching or memory game.

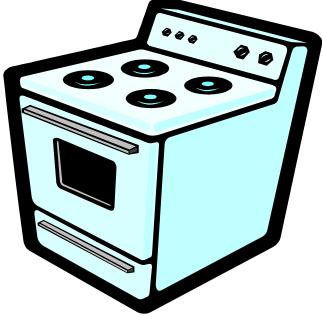

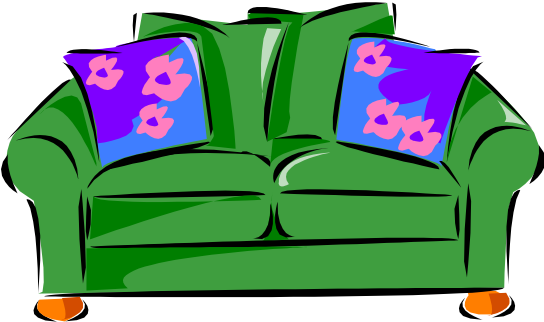

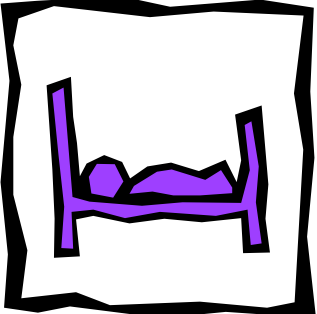





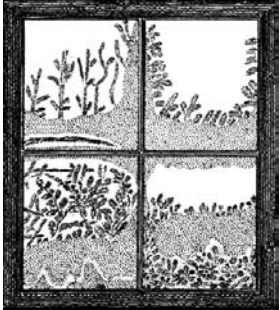
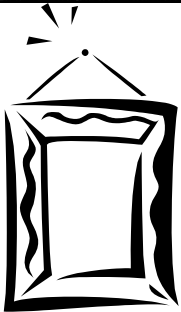

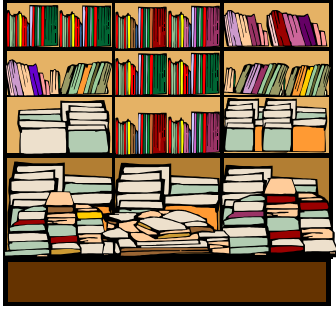












You're invited to a

Family Literacy Activities Night

Bring your family and take part in some fun literacy activities together. You can make activities and take them home to use together as a family.



Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Sponsored by:





Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT

Family Literacy Activities Night

Bring your family and take part in some fun family literacy activities.



Date: _____
Time: _____
Place: _____



Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT

Family Literacy Activities Night

Bring your family and take part in some fun family literacy activities.



Date: _____
Time: _____
Place: _____



Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT

Family Literacy Activities Night

Bring your family and take part in some fun family literacy activities.



Date: _____
Time: _____
Place: _____



Celebrate Family Literacy in the NWT

Family Literacy Activities Night

Bring your family and take part in some fun family literacy activities.



Date: _____
Time: _____
Place: _____

