



Want to learn more about what you can do with your family to promote 15 minutes of fun with literacy? Visit: [abclifeliteracy.ca](http://abclifeliteracy.ca)

# FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Family Literacy Day is fast approaching, and to help promote it, SES has some great activities for the week of the 21-25 leading into Family Literacy Day on January 27. In honour of Family Literacy Day's 15<sup>th</sup> year, ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning. Read the following information to see how you and your family can be involved in next week's literacy activities.



## DAILY ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL

**Monday, Jan. 21 – Postcard Day** – create a riddle postcard as a class and send a postcard to a friend.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22 – Book Swap** - Students are encouraged to bring a book from home to swap with someone else.

**Wednesday, Jan. 23 - T-Shirt Read.**

**Thursday, Jan. 24 – Drop Everything and Read Day.**

**Friday, Jan. 25 – READ IN.** There will be an **assembly AT 1:00** in the gymnasium in which classes will participate by doing something involving Literacy. Afterwards classes will be paired up to read to each other. Parents are invited.

## CONTESTS & PRIZES

### 1. MAKE A CARD INTRODUCING US TO YOUR FAMILY

All families are encouraged to create a card using an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper of your choice. Get creative using pictures and words to tell us about your family! Winning family will receive a game that will be fun for the whole family. **DUE: MONDAY, JANUARY 28**

### 2. PASSPORT FOR LEARNING

Learning passports will be sent home with activities you can do for 15 minutes a day. Check off at least two activities for morning, noon, and evening, and write other ways you promote Literacy as a family on the back. Names of finished passports will go into a draw for a \$10 gift certificate to the upcoming book fair. **DUE: MONDAY, JANUARY 28**

### 3. T-SHIRT READ

Have your child wear a shirt with print on it (appropriate sayings please). Two winners from each room will be chosen and their name will go into a draw for \$10 gift certificates for the upcoming book fair. **DAY TO WEAR T-SHIRT: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23**

### 4. DAILY RIDDLE

Each day a "Who Am I" riddle will be read on the announcements for K-2 and 3-5. The answer to the riddle will be a story book character. Student guesses will be put in a draw for K-2 and 3-5, and winners will be able to pick a prize from our Literacy prize box.

# TIPS TO ENCOURAGE READING AS A FAMILY



Strategies for parents to foster literacy skills in their children and strengthen their own literacy skills along the way:

- The television can be used as a tool. After your child watches a television show or an episode, talk to them about it. Ask them questions like, “What was your favourite part?” or “What was the episode trying to teach the audience?”
- Don’t lose sight of the fact that children model behaviour they see. Ensure that your child sees you reading whether it’s the newspaper, the mail or the cooking instructions on a frozen meal. This shows your child how important it is to read.
- While reading a story to your child, pause to ask them what they predict will happen next or have them summarize what has happened in the story thus far.
- Today’s children are influenced by music. Have your child read the lyrics to their favourite song. When your child hears the song, they will visualize the lyrics they read.
- All reading is good reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, allow them to read comics, a graphic novel, a magazine or an instruction manual for their favourite sport.
- When you are in the mall, grocery store or out for a walk, have your child read signs, posters and flyers.
- Families that spend a lot of time in the car can play an audio book.

- Have your child help you make dinner by reading a recipe card.
- Play board games with your child that involve making words or reading instructions on cards.
- Watch a movie that is based on a book. To really enhance critical literacy skills, have your child identify the key differences between the movie and the book.
- Reading aloud helps children develop pace and voice. Have your child read to the family dog, teddy bear or their younger sibling. These are nonthreatening audiences that will help develop your child’s confidence.

Developing literacy skills is a task that requires a lot of patience from the parents and the literacy learner. As such, making the process enjoyable for everyone involved can go a long way in alleviating anxiety and opening the doors to developing lifelong literacy skills.

**FAMILY LITERACY DAY: SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 27, 2013**





