

LITERACY FOR A LIFETIME

The importance of raising a reader

Literacy is a lifelong skill that begins in infancy and extends long into adulthood.



Did you know? Children who read for fun have greater levels of imagination, focus, relaxation and mood regulation. Reading for fun can increase empathy, improve relationships with others and enhance wellbeing throughout life.

A child's math and science skills also improve when family literacy is a priority.

Reading, writing, talking and singing with your family can improve the literacy skills of your whole family while building deeper emotional connections. Family literacy is not only important when a child is young, but continues to make a difference over their entire lives. It helps expand a child's social skills, self-esteem and attitudes toward education.

When children build strong literacy skills, they develop critical thinking, communication, verbal reasoning and many other strengths. These lifelong tools make navigating the world easier from childhood through to adulthood. Children with broader vocabularies have better ability to express their needs and advocate for themselves and others.

Source: ABC Life Literacy Canada

LITERACY AT HOME

Family literacy activities and ideas

Family literacy creates a foundation for children's learning experiences. Children who have support from adults in their family are more likely to be successful and engaged at school. Here are some ways your family can keep their literacy skills sharp:

- **Pop-up kitchen:** Follow a recipe together – it's a yummy way to practice math and reading!
- **Play a word game:** Get the whole family to join in a game of Scrabble, Boggle, or other games that encourage reading/writing.
- **On the go?:** In the car and on the go, play oral word-based games that encourage vocabulary building.
- **Visit your local library:** Check out the amazing books, resources and free programs at Calgary Public Library. You can even sign up for a free library card from the comfort of your own home:



- **Read a book as a family:** Take a look at the Calgary Public Library's family reading picks, download activity booklets, and more:



FREE DIGITAL RESOURCES

Students today have been born in the age of computer technology. As a result, digital literacy and critical thinking are important skills for our children to develop. The Calgary Public Library and CBE have **free digital library resources** available to students and parents. These can be accessed online.

Here are some of the digital resources available through the Calgary Public Library:

- **Libby:** Browse thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines instantly and for free.
- **National Geographic Kids:** Learn about science, nature, culture, archaeology and space; read the complete National Geographic Kids magazine from 2009 to present, watch videos, read eBooks, and more.
- **World Book Online for Kids:** Explore the world of animals, important people and places through easy-to-read articles, images and videos; developed especially for young readers.
- **brainfuse HelpNow:** Interact with live tutors in Alberta curriculum subjects (K-12) daily from 2pm-11pm. Get constructive feedback in the 24-hour writing lab, and submit homework questions for expert help.
- **LOTE4Kids:** Read and listen to picture books in 65+ languages, including English, French, Spanish, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Tagalog, Arabic, German, and Russian.



Through CBE, parents can access a **Digital Decodeable Library** for beginner readers.

These books help young readers with sound-letter connections. Access it here:



The **Calgary Public Library's Digital Library** can be accessed using your library card. Check it out here:

