



# Downtown Parents

## Neighbourhood Corner

Communities 4 Families (Downtown Parent-Child Coalition)	
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Preschool Reading Circle at  
Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre:



Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Center and Frontier College have teamed up to bring some fabulous fun to parents, caregivers and toddlers in the downtown area.

This **FREE** preschool program is centered around reading, nutrition and hands-on activities based on stories shared with the

group. Every session starts with a song to welcome everyone and then the children, along with their parents and caregivers are engaged in an active reading of a book, followed by a craft that relates to the story. Coloring and fun worksheets, as well as games, are also a big part of this program.



Participation in the Reading Circle is an excellent way for parents and caregivers to learn other ways of interacting with and reading books with their children. Parents and

caregivers will also learn how to take books a step further to improve comprehension and increase family fun.



We end the Reading Circle with a nutritious snack and there are always little surprises for the kids that pop up from time to time.

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The next session for the Reading Circle will start in January.

If you would like more information or to register for the program, please contact Sharon Redsky at the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre at 204.789.1454 and check them out [on line](#).

To learn more about Frontier College, their programs and how you can get involved, please [visit](#) or call Michelle at 204.253.7993.

Wii Chiiwaakanak is located at 509-511 Ellice Avenue in downtown Winnipeg.

# 15 Minutes of Fun!

- Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes
- Sing five songs really, really loud!
- Read a story to your pet (or favourite toy).
- Create your family tree.
- Play rhyming "I Spy" - "I spy something that rhymes with..."

From [ABC Life Literacy](#)



- Go for a walk and point out the words you see in signs.
- Sing a song and dance to it. Rhyming, memorization and imitating sounds helps build language.
- Bake cookies. This teaches following directions, sequencing, measuring, and counting.
- Cut up old greeting cards to make puzzles.
- Share some family stories.
- Count everything: building towers, counting poker chips, stairs as you walk up them...

From [Saskatchewan Literacy Network](#)

Bookmates' Family Learning Olympics kits offer a great way to engage families through a series of inter-generational literacy and numeracy learning activities at different stations.

Great for "I Love to Read" month in February!

Contact Bookmates at 204.582.1804 or [bookmate@mts.net](mailto:bookmate@mts.net) for more information.

- Make a Memory game with index cards or squares of construction paper. Glue stickers, foam shapes, or draw pictures on each card (remember to make matching pairs).
- Draw your favourite animals or characters from a favorite story on construction paper. Cut them out and glue a popsicle stick to the back of each one. Put on a puppet show with your popsicle stick puppets!
- Move like an animal in a book you are reading - Hop like a bunny; Crawl like an alligator; Swim like a fish. What if you were a bee or a cat?

From [Centre for Family Literacy](#)



## Reading with Children

Reading storybooks or telling our own stories helps children to build language skills. Try these ideas the next time you read or tell a story to your child.

Point out the letters on the cover of the book. Look at the letters in the title or the writer's name. Find any letters that are the same as in your child's name. For example, in the book "Where's Spot?" by Eric Hill, you could point to the "S" in Spot and say, "Look, there is the letter "S" for Spot, the same as in your name - "S" for "Sam".



Wait or pause while reading or telling a story to give your child a chance to say something, make a comment or ask a question. A good time to wait is before you turn a page, or after hearing a favorite word or sentence.

Read or tell the same story many times. Children like to hear the same story over and over again, and will learn something new each time. After hearing the story several times, your child will be able to tell you the story in their own way.

*Janet Simpson  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Access Downtown*

## C4F meetings

Communities 4 Families is a coalition of parent-child agencies supporting families in downtown Winnipeg. We meet every month and welcome anyone working with families in the downtown. Our meetings are great opportunities to network and meet others interested in supporting downtown families.

Our upcoming meetings will be at 1:30 p.m. at **823 Ellice Ave.** on:

**January 16** – presentation: learn more about family literacy

**February 20** – presentation: Aboriginal Children Count: A Campaign for Social Justice in Early Childhood Development

**March 20** – presentation: TBA

**April 17** – presentation: Dufferin School Parent Room

**May 15** – presentation: TBA

**June 19** – Annual General Meeting

Find out more about what's happening in your community and about [Communities 4 Families](#).

"Like" us on Facebook!



# Family Literacy Celebration

Are you looking for some free fun activities for you and your children?

**WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH

**FROM:** 5:00–7:00 pm

**Where:** West End Library & Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex

**Address:** 999 Sargent Ave.

- Book Giveaways
- Food
- Games
- Draws
- Crafts

Activities based on the book:  
"The Silly Chicken"  
by Idries Shah



## Fun Family Literacy draw!



Answer the questions below. Drop this form off at any branch of **Winnipeg Public Library** to enter a draw to win a prize!

I read for 15 minutes every day with

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of someone in your family. e.g. mom, dad, sister, grandpa, dog...)

My favourite book to read is called

\_\_\_\_\_. (Title)

I think it is important to read for at least 15 minutes a day because

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ and/or  
email address \_\_\_\_\_

Enter to win from  
**January 21<sup>st</sup> to January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

(To find your closest library go to [Winnipeg.ca/library](http://Winnipeg.ca/library) or call 204-986-6450.)