



Downtown Parents

Neighbourhood Corner

Moe the Mouse®

Moe the Mouse® was introduced to the Dufferin School Parent/Child Family Center Summer Program as a pilot project. We ran the program twice a week for 5 weeks in the months of July and August 2014.

Using the Moe the Mouse® kit we were able to develop language, learn letters, produce sounds with the animals, enhance learning through fun activities provided in the kit. Other activities included categorizing food, clothing, animals, transportation and occupation.

One of the highlights of this program was having the parents involved because it built confidence, interaction and language building between the child and their parent. It was meaningful to the children having their parent beside them while learning.

The parents supported their children and each other and each other's children in the program. We also encouraged families to continue fun learning and interaction by sending Moe the Mouse® home with the child for the entire week.

When our program sadly came to an end, we sent each student home with a bag full of activities and their own set of felt animals to continue their learning for the rest of the summer break.

Moe the Mouse® was such a successful program that we have now integrated it into a lunch hour program at Dufferin School.

Kerry Nemet
Director-Dufferin School Parent/Child Family Center Summer Project
Administrative Assistant

Elvira Edic
Speech and Language Assistant

Training to run Moe the Mouse® was offered through the Very READ-y project, an initiative to ensure kids in Point Douglas are prepared to start school. A partnership between Manidoo and Bookmates, supported by Community Building Funds and the Moffat Family Fund at The Winnipeg Foundation, Very READ-y was launched in 2012 with a goal to boost early literacy in Point Douglas.

Moe the Mouse® helps develop increased language skills for children entering school at early years, especially speech language development. It increases parental involvement and builds parents capacity to help their children.

Communities 4 Families
(Downtown Parent-Child Coalition)

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Looking for a toboggan hill?
Check out
Central Park.
400 Cumberland
Ave.

Open 7 a.m. to
9 p.m.



Sharing Books with Children

Try some of these ideas the next time you share a book or tell a story with your child. Remember, you don't have to read every word on the page, or even look at all the pages. Your child enjoys the conversations you have together while sharing a book.

- Stop and talk about a picture your child is interested in. Relate it to something your child knows about. For example, if the story is about animals, you can talk about the animals your child sees in your home, in your neighbourhood, or at the zoo.
- Comment about the pictures instead of asking a question. You could say: "That is a big red balloon!" instead of "What colour is the balloon?"

- Choose books that match your child's interests and experiences. If your child likes cars and trucks, find a book about vehicles. e.g. "The Little Blue Truck".
- Try reading books with rhymes and repeatable phrases. e.g. "Sheep in a Jeep", "Brown Bear".

- Books with flaps or matching props help to keep your child's interest in the book. e.g. "Where is Spot?" has fun flaps to open. Props to tell the story of "The Three Bears" could include 3 sizes of spoons, bowls, chairs, blankets, and pillows.

Janet Simpson
Speech-Language Pathologist
Access Downtown
January 2015

Read to your baby.

Even very young babies love picture books. Make storytime a part of your baby's routine, such as before naps or at bedtime. You don't even have to read the story all the way through. Just talking about some of the pictures is enjoyable for young babies.

Sing songs. Music makes the words easier to remember, and is a fun way to make language come alive for you and your baby!



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Visit our new website at
www.communities4families.ca

Featuring links to the City of Winnipeg's NOW
Winnipeg site.

Use rhymes, games and songs. Babies respond to them almost from birth. And they don't need to understand the words for these moments to be learning experiences, especially when they're sharing them with mom or dad.

From [Caring for Kids](#)

Family Literacy Programs

Baby Rhyme Time

Discover the joy of songs, finger plays, simple books and bouncing rhymes. Please bring a small blanket to place on the floor for your baby. Ages newborn to 24 months and caregiver, 20 - 30 minutes.

- **Millennium Library**
Fridays: 1:30 p.m.
Starts Friday, January 16
Call to register @ 204.986.6488
- **West End Library**
Mondays: 2:00 p.m.
Starts Monday, January 12
Call to register @ 204.986.4677

Time for Twos

Explore the world of picture books, rhymes, finger plays and felt stories. Ages 24 - 36 months and caregiver. 20 - 30 minutes

- **Millennium Library**
Wednesdays: 10:30 a.m.
Starts Wednesday, January 14
Call to register @ 204.986.6488

Communities 4 Families is also pleased to support family literacy activities at:

- Tec Voc High School
- Victoria Albert School
- Wellington School
- Pinkham School
- Mulvey School
- Dufferin School

Family Story Time

Stories, rhymes and activities geared primarily for children 3 - 5 years, but everyone can join in the fun! For the whole family.

- **Cornish Library**
Fridays: 10:30 a.m.
Starts Friday, January 16
Drop-in
- **Millennium Library**
Tuesdays: 10:30 a.m.
Starts Tuesday, January 13
Call to register @ 204.986.6488
- **Millennium Library**
Saturdays: 11:00 a.m.
Starts Saturday, January 17
Drop-in
- **West End Library**
Fridays: 10:30 a.m.
Starts Friday, January 16
Call to register @ 204.986.4677

Family Literacy Day Activities

January 27 @ 2:00 p.m.
Wolseley Family Place
691 Wolseley Ave.
Call 204.788.8052 for info

January 27 @ 1:30-3:00 p.m.
Pregnancy and Family Support
555 Spence St.
Call 204.772.9091 for info

Family Literacy Fun Day

Travel between activity stations that promote the playful use of reading, writing and language skills. Fun for the whole family!

Tuesday, January 13 @
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Drop-in
West End Library

"100" Story Time

Cornish Library is 100 years old this June! Start the party with a special family story time of

books and activities - all featuring the number "100"

Saturday January 25 @ 1:30 - 2:30
Cornish Library
Call to register @ 204.986.4679

SNOWMAZEING Family Fun Day

Join us for a day of winter fun in the Downtown. Bring a shovel, or use ours, and help us build a giant snow maze! Warm up with some hot chocolate surrounded by the art in the park, or head indoors to enjoy winter stories, word games or crafting in the library.

Millennium Library - Children's Area and Library Park

- Saturday, February 7 @ 11:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 8 @ 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Check It Out! mobile library

All ages are welcome at our Check It Out! mobile library service. We visit twice a month year round.

- Get your free Library card.
- Borrow great books, magazines and comics for all ages to take home.
- No late fines. Talk with a librarian who will help find the information you need... about anything!
- Games and crafts for children and families.

Dufferin School (Lobby)
545 Alexander Avenue
Mondays: 2:30-4:30 pm
• January 12 & 26
• February 9 & 23

Are you looking for some free fun with your kids?

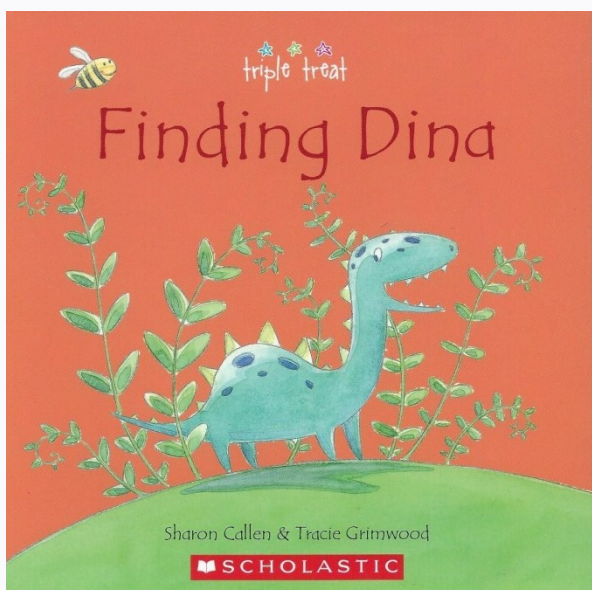
Join us for a...

Family Literacy Celebration

Activities based on the books:

“Finding Monty, Finding Carmina and Carlos, and Finding Dina”

By: Sharon Callen and Tracie Grimwood



👉 **Book Giveaways**

👉 **Food**

👉 **Games**

👉 **Draws**



For more information:

E-mail: info@communities4families.ca

Web-site: www.communities4families.ca

WHEN: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH

FROM: 5:00—7:00 pm

(Get there early so you don't miss the fun!)

**Where: West End Library &
The Cindy Klassen Recreation Center**

Address: 999 Sargent Ave.

