



# Downtown Parents

## Neighbourhood Corner

**Are you interested in holding your own Family Literacy celebration?**



Communities 4 Families can help Downtown organizations with our Event in a Box.

Event in a Box contains things you can use to make a great Family Literacy Day:

- How to set up a Family Literacy event - check lists and templates
- Books for every child - very simple books, suitable for the preschool crowd, these form the basis of the activities
- Ideas and instructions for crafts plus a physical activity related to the theme of the book
- Books 4 Babies and brochures about the importance of reading to your baby

Contact us for more information.

Here's what some groups have done:

*We had started our event with a guest story reader and then we moved in groups from station to station. We had 6 stations in total, including: art, movement activities, storytelling, book bag activity, science activities and a station run by a blind person. We invited a blind man and his dog to our event. He read in Braille and we held up the picture book. At the end we offered a light snack with sandwiches and pickles. (UWSA Day Care)*

*The theme was ocean adventure, so what we did was to decorate the story telling room with sea creatures. We started the session with storytelling with all the participants gathered in one big room. While the story teller was reading the book, two other people were doing the puppet show at the same time. The second station was the activity station wherein we had three sets of activities: memory game, fishing game and bingo. The third station was the craft station wherein they made octopus out of cupcake wrappers and ribbons. The last station was the snack station - we served fruit and yogurt wherein we ask our participants to do their own "ocean themed" snacks with their kids. It felt like we did our summer outing at the beach right inside the classroom. It was lots of fun for us (staff and volunteers) when we were preparing for the big day, but most especially for our students and PF participants. (Mosaic)*

**Communities 4 Families**

(Downtown Parent-Child Coalition)

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

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## Make a Book

Make an emotion book with your child. An easy project to do with your child is to create a homemade book. All you need is paper, crayons or markers, and a stapler. You can make a book about one emotion and have your child fill the pages with things that make her feel that way. For example, a "Happy Book" may have pictures that you and your child draw of things that make her happy, pictures cut out of

magazines that are glued on the pages, or photographs of friends and family members. Another approach is to have the book be about a variety of feeling words and do a page on each of several emotions (happy, mad, surprised, scared, irritated, proud, etc.) For children who have a lot to say about their feelings, you may want to have them tell you a sentence about what makes them feel an emotion so you can write the sentence on the page. Then, your

child can cut out a picture to glue in the book or draw a picture to go with the emotion. Warning, this activity is more likely to be enjoyable to your child if you do it together, but might be difficult for your child to do alone.

From the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, Vanderbilt University

[www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel)

## Family Literacy Day

These notes were taken from the words of Melanie Wight (former Minister of Children and Youth Opportunity) at last year's Family Literacy day celebrations on January 27, 2016

Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative that was created in 1999 by ABC Life Literacy Canada. It is held annually on January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and taking part in home literacy activities as a family.

The reason family literacy is so important is simple. Parents are children's first and most important teachers. The attitude you present to your child towards reading and learning can make all the difference in the attitude your child develops about reading and learning.

We know that children learn best through their everyday experiences with the people they love and trust, and when the learning is fun. These interactions serve as modeling behaviors and create the basis for learning over the course of a child's life.

The research on this is very clear. Children raised in homes that promote family literacy grow up to be better readers and do better in school. Yet the benefits of good literacy are much greater than that.

Children who develop a love of reading attend school more regularly and are more likely to complete their educations; their general knowledge improves; their oral language and how they communicate improves; their vocabulary and their writing skills improve; and their social skills, self-esteem and feelings about school are strengthened.

One easy way to show your child the importance of reading is to make a special place to store your child's books. By creating a home library, you are showing your child that books are special and deserve an organized storage place all their own.

Creating your own picture books, or books without words, is another way to encourage reading. Use photos, or pictures from magazines, or your child's drawings and create a book. Then read the story with your child by asking them to take you through the story. As they get older, they can write down the words to the stories themselves.

Storytelling is another great way to encourage all family members to build literacy skills. Have a family member tell a story about a family event, then ask a younger member of the family to re-tell the story in their own words. Of course, learning to read goes hand in hand with learning to write. One fun way to encourage reading and writing practice is to write notes to each other. Leaving a note in your child's lunch box, taped to the hallway mirror or under their pillow makes writing and reading a fun thing to do.

Reading together, talking about the stories, sharing stories, and encouraging children to create their own, for even just 15 minutes a day, will help children to develop their skills dramatically.

Reading is a stepping stone. It gives children the gift of language; the ability to express feelings; the ability to imagine and dream; and the ability to empathize and speak out on behalf of themselves and others.

By reading and engaging in other fun literacy activities together as a family, you are strengthening relationships within your family and encouraging a love for lifelong learning.

## Free Winter Fun

### Free Swim

Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex  
999 Sargent Ave.  
Saturdays 5-6:30 pm

Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool  
381 Sherbrook St.  
Fridays 1-5 pm  
Saturdays 2:30-5 pm

### Skating

Pioneer  
799 Logan Ave.  
Saturdays 12:30-1:30 pm

Sargent Park  
1111 Wall St.  
Sundays noon–1 pm

Central Park  
400 Cumberland Ave.

Magnus Eliason Recreation  
Centre  
430 Langside St.

Vimy Ridge Memorial Park  
821 Preston Ave.

### Toboggan Hills

Central Park  
400 Cumberland Ave.

Westview Park (Garbage Hill)

### Winter Slides

Waterfront Drive  
Waterfront Drive and George St.

## At the Library

### Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, February 4, 2017

### Join the celebration at all libraries:

- Family music concerts
- Make your own library card-holder
- Family Story times at select libraries
- Celebrate your child's new library card by taking a photo with fun props
- Prize draws

Activities best enjoyed by  
children ages 3-7.

### Baby Rhyme Time

For newborn to 24 months and  
caregiver (call to register)

Millennium Library  
251 Donald St.  
Mondays at 11 am  
starting January 16  
Fridays at 11 am  
starting January 20

West End Library  
999 Sargent Ave.  
Mondays at 10:30 am  
starting January 16

### Family Story Time—Drop In

Cornish Library  
20 West Gate  
Fridays at 10:30 am  
starting January 20

Millennium Library  
Saturdays at 11 am  
starting January 21

West End Library  
Fridays at 10:30 am  
starting January 20

## February is “I Love to Read” month.

Sharing stories is part of  
literacy learning. Try these  
ideas to celebrate the month:

- At bedtime, instead of reading a book, tell your child a funny story about adventures or things you did with your friends when you were little. Share stories or legends you heard from your parents, grandparents and other relatives. Talk about the things you admire about your family and community. Look at photos of grandparents, places where family members lived, special traditions and practices in your family or community.
- Take-a-turn storymaking. Invent a story with your child by taking turns adding sentences or story parts to the story. Add to the fun by making up funny voices for the characters in the story. This is a good game to involve more than one child in. It creates a good opportunity to teach your child how to take turns—an important problem solving skill in social situations.

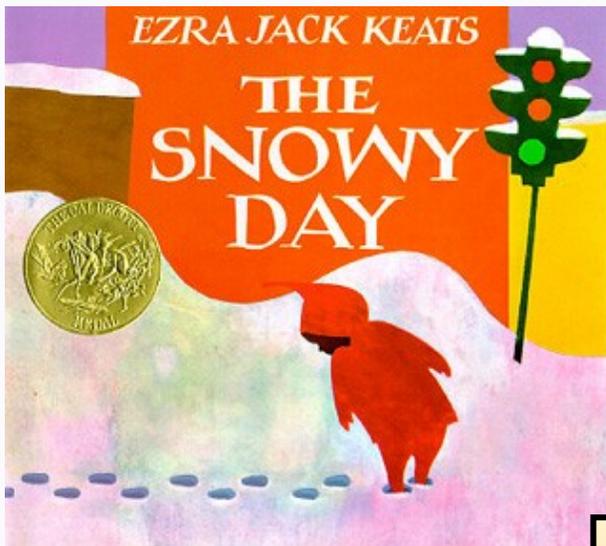
From *The Bounce Back Book: building resiliency skills in your preschooler*

**Are you looking for some free fun with your kids?**

**Join us for a...**

# **Family Literacy Celebration**

**Fun activities based on *The Snowy Day*,  
a children's book about winter**



👉 **Book Giveaways**

👉 **Food**

👉 **Games**

👉 **Draws**

👉 **Crafts**

**Fun and  
FREE!**

**For more information:**

E-mail: [info@communities4families.ca](mailto:info@communities4families.ca)

Web-site: [www.communities4families.ca](http://www.communities4families.ca)

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH

**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.



Winnipeg Regional  
Health Authority  
Caring for Health

Office régional de la  
santé de Winnipeg  
À l'écoute de notre santé