



Family Literacy Tips and Activity Ideas

Travel the World: Well, sort of, Use your library card as your passport. Check out books on different countries to learn about their traditions and celebrations.

Daffy Dictionary: Choose a word from the dictionary and write it on a piece of paper with one correct definition, then make up two more definitions that are incorrect but 'sound' like they might be accurate. See who can guess the correct definition. Teams can play this game, with members coming up with the daffy definitions together and also guessing the other team's correct definition.

Community book club: Challenge your neighbours to read the same book during the holiday season and through January and then meet at a convenient location (at someone's house for a pot-luck supper, for example) on Family Literacy Day, January 27, to discuss the book. It may be so much fun you'll want to hold two or three throughout the year.

Have a Book-nic: Organize an indoor picnic featuring books and delicious treats. Choose a theme around family food and reading preferences; for example, enjoy honey-flavoured cereal while reading *Winnie the Pooh* stories.

Watch a book: Set up a book-and-movie group where a book will be read and discussed, and then the film version will be watched. There are many good titles, both for adults and young people that have been made into films.

“You’ve Got Mail”: With adult supervision, have children go online and find a suitable electronic postcard to customize and send to a loved one.

Author, Author! Create a family journal by interviewing family members and writing down favourite jokes and stories from your kid brother, father, mother and Great Aunt Edna.

Reading Buddies. Encourage your child to practice reading to the family dog, cat or goldfish. Pets are great listeners and don’t make a judgment if a mistake is made.

Create a family book club. Read and discuss together. Post your family’s top 10 books list and book reviews online.

Get the news! Read news articles and magazines and then discuss current affairs together.

Make a particular night Board Game night. Maybe invite another family for a challenge.

Sing favourite songs. Find out more about the songwriter or singer on the Internet. Make up your own songs.

Let them catch you reading: Act as a reading role model for your kids by reading in your spare time. Remember that children learn by example.

Game On: Set up a family board game night where a different game is played each week. Have each member of the family involved in reading instructions and game cards and keeping score.

Hi Ho the Merry-o: Engage in sing-along sessions with your children.

Sous Chef. Following recipes is a great way to improve both reading and math skills. Ask your children to read the instructions out loud and to help measure the ingredients when making a treat for the family.

Read a classic adventure together. If your children like *Survivor*, they will love *Treasure Island*.

Surf the Internet together to find great sites that support your hobbies.

The Count: Have your child count out the change required to make a purchase. Reinforce the importance of math in everyday life.

Map out your trip. Have your kids create the map for your next road trip then they can navigate by reading signs and billboards. Create a trip journal.

Write your own adventure. Write a short story as a family with alternative endings written by each family member.

Check out www.abclifeliteracy.ca for the "Lunch at Muncsh" story writing contest. As well, submit your story to your local library or online at info@litforlife.com to win a lunch with local author Jacqueline Guest.

Go to www.litforlife.com by November 30th 2010 to check out activities for Family Literacy Day January 27th in the MD of foothills #31.

Family Literacy day Committee
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