

Family Literacy Activities

Literacy is more than books. There are several ways to keep your literacy skills sharp - all it takes is practicing for 15 minutes every day. Reading, writing, playing a game, following a recipe, or even singing a song all help prepare children for challenges ahead and sharpen skills for adults. Here are some activity ideas to practice your literacy skills:

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

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.

Family Game Night: 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.

Karaoke Night: Rent a Karaoke machine and invite the neighbours over for a party. Not only is this activity fun, but it also encourages, reading, singing and family involvement.

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

Sharpen your mind: Do crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches on your lunch break.

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 help measure the ingredients when making a treat for the family.

Surf the Internet together to find great websites that support your hobbies and interests.

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

“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.

For more fun activities to practice your literacy skills, visit
http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy/tipsandactivities.

