

For more information, you can contact Treaty 4 Education Alliance at 306-331-7556  
or visit us at [educationalliance.ca](http://educationalliance.ca)

### **February 1**

- Our children’s literacy begins at home and includes not only reading, but also writing and communicating. Simple things like asking our children how their day went and actively listening and engaging in their response, can improve our children’s literacy. Think about interesting questions you can ask your children when they get home tonight like: What was the best part of your day? Did anything funny happen to you today? Try it out!

### **February 2**

- Many people think that you have to know how to read words to read a book, but this is not true. There are 3 ways to read a book with your children. You can have them look at the pictures and help them tell the story by what they see in the pictures. You can read the book to them or with them by reading the words, and the third way is to have them retell the story to you in their own words. Try this tonight when you read with your children.

### **February 3**

- Babies and small children love to listen to the sound of your voice! Try to sing songs and nursery rhymes like “Twinkle Twinkle” and “The Itsy Bitsy Spider” to your children. When you read to small children, vary the tone of your voice to keep their interest and keep the sessions brief but read daily and often!

### **February 4**

- Have the storytellers in your family share some of their stories from the past. Encourage your children to ask questions if they are curious about the story. When finished, have the smaller members of the family retell the story in their own words. This is a great activity for all ages!

### **February 5**

- Make a visit to your local library a fun family activity! To choose books that are at the appropriate reading level for your child, use the 5 finger rule. This works by choosing any page in the book and ask your child to read it. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you reach the fifth finger by the end of the page, then the book is too hard and they should probably pick another.

### **February 6**

- It is proven that literacy among our children has been decreasing due to the increase in screen time. Our children are not only not reading, they are not talking and communicating effectively. Children under 5 should not have more than 1 hour of screen time a day. Instead, encourage your children to play outside or with toys and use their imagination to role play and tell stories.

**Remember that you don’t need lots of time for literacy activities – five minutes a few times a day is often enough. They key is to use different times and opportunities to help your child learn! Literacy starts at home!**

## LITERACY MONTH – ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE LITERACY IN OUR HOMES

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### **February 7**

- Make alphabet posters for your children’s bedrooms. Make them bright and colorful! At night before you go to bed, or as you are getting ready in the morning, sing the alphabet song. You could take this one step forward and point to the letters or practice the letter sounds. Do this daily!

### **February 8**

- Include your children when you make your shopping lists. You could have them just watch and talk about what you are doing, or if they are a little older, help them write it themselves. Older children could be in charge of reading the list when you get to the store.

### **February 9**

- Reading to our kids is so important! Make reading bedtime stories a part of your bedtime routine. When you read, ask questions and point to the pictures. If possible, have your children re-tell you their favorite part of the story! Try this tonight!

### **February 10**

- Make the time to bake with your children. Not only does this teach them a very important skill, it also promotes communication, following directions, and the reading of recipes. Bake up some memories tonight!

### **February 11**

- When doing things around the house, include your children and use rhyme whenever you can. Use phrases like ‘snug as a bug in a rug’ or make up nonsense rhymes about things you’re doing – for example, ‘putting fish in the cat’s dish’. This makes conversation more interesting and fun for your little ones.

### **February 12**

- The next time you go for a walk with your child, Talk about objects outside the house – for example, the rustling of leaves, or the sounds of the birds or traffic. Ask your child if she can make the sounds for wind, rain, water, airplanes, trains and cars.

### **February 13**

- When you go out, help your children make connections from what they read to the world around them. For example, if you’ve read a book about playing in a park, you might like to take your child to the local park and point out swings that look like the ones in the book. You can also do this as you read the book by asking questions like “where have we seen swings like this before?”

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### **February 14**

Literacy is not only reading, it also includes writing and communicating. Today is Valentine's day so why not spend a little extra time talking and writing about the people we love. Today you could have your children write a Valentine's Day card to somebody they love or maybe you could just sit down and talk to them about the people who are special in our children's lives. Talk about what makes them so special and why we like them so much.

### **February 15**

Choose a word of the day! This is something that can be done every day! Select a word of the day and try to use it often. Discuss what the word means and use it in a daily activity. For example: House – discuss what it is, who lives in it, look in books to find house pictures, and play a game of house. Make learning new words fun!

### **February 16**

Sing a nursery rhyme with your child tonight. Try to make this a daily activity. Nursery rhymes teach your children language, rhyme, repetition and rhythm. You could try "baa baa black sheep" or the "alphabet song."

### **February 17**

Encourage your child to draw and write using pens, pencils, crayons and markers. They will be excited to add a scribble or drawing to birthday cards or notes that you are writing. This may not seem like it, but this is an important step in your child learning to communicate by writing.

### **February 18**

Many young children today struggle with rhyming words and understanding why some words rhyme and others don't. A way that you can help your children with this important skill is to play a rhyming game like "I Spy." For example: "I spy with my little eye, something that rhymes with tall." This is a great game that can be played when you have a few extra moments in the car, at home, or even at the supermarket.

### **February 19**

Play a game of "Find the Teddy." This game works on your child's concept of positions (e.g. front/back, top/bottom, over/under). You play by placing the teddy bear in different locations and ask your child to describe where the teddy is. This game can be played with any object, almost anywhere.

### **February 20**

Today when you are out and about, make a habit by pointing out different types of print. For example, shop signs or movie posters. You can even point out different labels at the grocery stores or play a game where your child finds different words or signs that have a certain letter. Make it a game and play it often!

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### **February 21**

Stimulate your child's sound awareness by finding things that start with the same sound. "I spy something that starts with the sound 'sssss'" or "Can you find something else that starts with the 'ssss' sound?" This is a fun game that can be played while you are in the car, out for a walk or just sitting on the couch. Try it tonight!

### **February 22**

Sing "If you're happy and you know it clap your hands." You can add other verses using appropriate actions and expressions. This helps to incorporate repetition and following instructions into building their awareness of self and environment.

### **February 23**

Sit down and draw a picture with your children tonight. As you draw, talk about your pictures. Encourage your child to talk about their drawings and help them write down the words that they use to describe them.

### **February 24**

Pick a day of the week that you and your family sit down to play a board game. A family game night is not only a fun, easy activity for your family, it also encourages reading and following directions and positive communication. Make this a part of your regular weekly schedule!

### **February 25**

Talk with your child about the future. You can do this by talking about something that you want to do tomorrow or next weekend. Ask them what they would like to do on Saturday, or ask them to tell you what they need to do before they go to bed.

### **February 26**

Give your child some paper that is stapled together like a book. Encourage them to write their own story book. When they are done, have them tell you the story and point to the pictures. Help them write their own words for their story.

### **February 27**

Read a map together. Next time you are planning a trip, even if it is to the local grocery store, take a look at the map together. Talk about what the symbols on the map mean, and where you are starting and wanting to go. Let your children trace the path with their fingers.

### **February 28**

Look at the newspaper together. You can read the stories to older children and have them re-tell you what the story is about. For younger children, you can look at the pictures and have them point out the things that they notice about each one. You can also let your children help you plan your grocery shopping by cutting out the items in the flyer that you plan on buying.

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