



Opening Doors to Learning

Volunteer News

of Kingston Literacy & Skills

Jan./Feb. 2010

*"The more you read,
the more things
you will know.
The more that
you learn, the more
places you'll go."*

- Dr. Seuss

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Kingston Literacy & Skills' Mission Statement

Kingston Literacy furthers the development and growth of adult and family literacy in Kingston and neighbouring communities.

Family Literacy

Have you ever read a story to your grandson? Or baked a favourite recipe with your daughter? Or counted all those stairs with your nephew? If you have, you probably read and baked and counted over and over again! Activities such as these help children develop their literacy skills, foundational skills that are the building blocks of reading, writing and math.

As parents most of us instinctively pass these literacy skills on to our children. But what if a parent has trouble reading or doesn't interact with their child using literacy skills? How does that affect their child? Kingston Literacy recognizes the need to provide support to these parents and has been offering innovative family literacy programming for 20 years.

As the only organization in Kingston providing family literacy programming, Kingston Literacy offers a unique service. Our Family Literacy programs, offered free of charge, focus on providing parents with children 0-6 years of age learning opportunities to increase their use of language, reading, writing and numeracy skills both at home and in the community.

Our Reading And Parents Program (RAPP) is one such program. It is a resource lending program designed to encourage family reading, and to help parents support their children's emergent literacy development. Last year we reached 318 families and 496 children, delivering almost 2,000 books to families to read and discuss together.

If you are interested in finding out more about family literacy, please visit our family literacy website at www.familyliteracyexpertise.org.



Kingston Literacy & Skills
(613) 547-2012
www.kingstonliteracy.com

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Volunteer Opportunities with Kingston Literacy & Skills

Childcare Volunteer

The childcare program at our Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) location is in need of someone who can read to children, assist with sleep time as well as help with dishes. This volunteer opportunity occurs weekdays, noon until 2:00 p.m. Please contact Catherine at (613) 547-2255.

One-to-One Tutoring

If you are patient and open-minded, have strong reading and writing skills and are available three hours per week, you may be interested in becoming a volunteer tutor. The next training session for tutors begins February 1 and ends March 8. For those interested, please contact Sheila at (613) 547-2012 by January 29 to set up an interview.

Reading And Parents Program (RAPP) Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help put RAPP packs together in Kingston and/or deliver RAPP packs to various playgroups in Kingston, Glenburnie, Hartington, Sydenham and Verona. RAPP packs are tailor-made for individual families and contain a children's book as well as craft and language activities. These kits are loaned to families to help them to increase their literacy skills. If you are available 2 hours per week, please contact Anne at (613) 389-0218.

Upcoming Events

Family Literacy Day Activities: Saturday, January 23, 2010

Family Literacy staff, in conjunction with other community groups, are presenting activities in North Kingston which will feature Gerry Mitchell, a local children's entertainer. For more information, please contact Anne at (613) 389-0218 or ajackson@kingstonliteracy.com.

How to Teach Spelling: A Presentation by Peter Bowers: February 16, 2010

Kingston Literacy & Skills presents a free presentation by PhD candidate Peter Bowers on how to teach spelling using a "structured word inquiry" approach. This active, practical workshop will help you understand the ordered mechanics of how written words work by modeling lessons and using teaching tools that explain conventions that govern English spelling. By investigating the spelling-meaning connections of words such as *business*, *sign*, *does* or *conscious* you will discover that instead of a frustratingly irregular system we have to memorize, it is a fascinating system that can be investigated through the engaging problem-solving approach, "***structured word inquiry***." For examples of this instruction visit www.wordworkskingston.com. This presentation will take place at 859 Princess Street starting at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Comments?

We would love to hear from you. Please email your comments or ideas to Allison at ahandelman@kingstonliteracy.com.