

massachusetts reads and succeeds!

A monthly series dedicated to the people and the organizations whose efforts in literacy make Massachusetts a great place to live and learn.



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Celebrating Family Literacy Month

All parents want the very best education for their children, as success in learning is the key to success in life. We know that students do better in school when they are reading, writing, and participating in literacy activities with their families. With that in mind, the Boston Herald In Education program has created its fourth annual Celebrating Family Literacy Month page to encourage families to do just that - to spend time together in order to foster a love of learning.

This page is meant to be FUN! What better way to celebrate literacy and family learning than to showcase some of the best ideas, resources, and events in Massachusetts! So gather round and take some time to have fun and learn together.



Easy Tips for Reading With Your Child

(These easy tips are taken from the Family Resource book at www.jstart.org You may download a copy in both English and Spanish.)

Read books to your child at least once every day.

- Try reading at bedtime, after a meal, or in the tub.
- If you have a bus ride or time to wait somewhere, keep a book with you.

Make it fun!

- Use different voices for different characters.

Read everything you see.

- Read street signs, food containers, billboards, and mail.

Read when you are writing.

- Read the lists and notes you write out loud.
- Let your child "write" and "read" it back to you.

Start now!

- Everything we know about how young children learn to read and write tells us that the younger they start the better!

EVERYDAY THINGS TO TRY

Adults have many family responsibilities on a day-to-day basis, but you can turn these responsibilities into fun learning experiences for your children!

Breakfast/Mealtime

Encourage children to read cereal boxes and milk cartons

Cooking

Create a recipe with your children using words and pictures. Ask your child to follow a family recipe

On the bus, subway, or in the car

- Figure out how many people can fit on the bus, subway or in a car
- Guess how many people will get on or off at the next stop
- Look out the window and talk about what you see

Grocery shopping

- Ask children to help to write and read the grocery list
- To hold the shopping list and help look for specific items
- To get items from the shelf to put into the cart

31 DAYS to Better Reading!

The following activities from the Verizon's Thinkfinity.org website don't require a lot of time or any special materials and each idea will help your child build one or more important literacy skills. For a month-long calendar of fun activities, visit the website at <http://literacynetwork.verizon.org/tln/31days/>

DAY 1

Tell your child a story from your childhood. Ask your child to tell you a story about something that has happened to him/her.



DAY 2

Make up rhymes about things you see in your home as you go about your daily routine. "That's a fat cat." "Let's walk through the door to the store."



DAY 3

Talk a walk with your child. Talk about the things you see, using and defining new words. "That tree has big roots. Roots attach the tree to the ground so it doesn't fall over."



FAMILY FUN: Create A Story From Newspaper Photos

Here's what to do: Draw three boxes on a sheet of blank paper. Scan today's newspaper with your child and cut out three photos that they find interesting. While choosing, ask them to talk about what makes each photo funny or why it caught their attention. Glue the photos in the boxes on your paper. Finally, ask your child to tell you a story

using the three photos as a guide to illustrating what happens. Tip: Starting with "Once upon a time," might help get the ideas flowing!

More ideas to try: Using the same photos, create a new story to tell your child. Ask your child to create a longer story using six photos.

Come & Celebrate Family Literacy Month at the Children's Museum!

- ★ Fun Family Activities
- ★ Create Book Marks & Reading Logs
- ★ Mother Goose on the Loose Story Time Activity

- ★ Meet Arthur from WGBH
- ★ Take Home Resources
- ★ And Much, Much More!

This event was made possible through a partnership between the Massachusetts Family Literacy Consortium and the following local agencies who believe in the power of families:

- Boston Children's Museum
- Massachusetts Literacy Foundation
- Boston Herald In Education Program
- Mass. Board of Library Commissioners
- Women Infants and Children
- Jumpstart
- Reach Out and Read
- Children's Trust Fund
- Early Words / ReadBoston
- Boston Public Library
- TERC
- Countdown to Kindergarten
- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education



Date: Sunday, November 9, 2008

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Boston Children's Museum
300 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02108

Cost: General Admission Fee
Adults (16-64): \$10.00 Seniors (65+): \$8.00
Children (2-15): \$8.00 Children (1): \$2.00
Children under one are FREE!!!