

## **Raising voices and funds for literacy across Canada**

### ***Canadians encouraged to Sing for Literacy and celebrate activities for Family Literacy Day 2010***

January 27th is Family Literacy Day and a “singing” theme will be featured as part of this year’s national campaign. Sing for Literacy encourages Canadians from coast to coast to sing at various Family Literacy Day events and help raise funds by pledging online via [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca). Family Literacy Day events can take place in homes, at schools and classrooms, in community centres, or even unexpected places.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s karaoke or campfire-style, singing as a family provides a joyful way to expand spoken vocabulary and creates a strong bond,” says Margaret Eaton, President of ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation. “Singing encourages learning patterns of words, rhymes and rhythms, and is strongly connected to language skills. It’s an easy way to support literacy, particularly when the funds are needed now more than ever.”

Money raised through online pledging will provide much needed support for literacy programs, reaching thousands of Canadian adult learners in the community, at home and in the workplace.

Established in 1999 by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Honda Canada, Family Literacy Day (every January 27) is an annual initiative developed to celebrate parents and children reading and learning together, and encourage Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes enjoying a learning activity every day.

*To pledge, register, or find your local Family Literacy Day event, go to [www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca](http://www.FamilyLiteracyDay.ca).*

### ***Family Literacy Tips***

The great thing about Family Literacy Day is that you don’t have to participate in a formal event to be a part of this initiative. Family Literacy Day can be celebrated by simply setting aside 15 minutes of family time to read and learn together – playing board games like Scrabble, writing a letter or even following a recipe together. Here are some other tips and activities to assist you in making family literacy a priority in your home:

### *Tips for parents*

**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

**Book time:** Set aside at least one hour every night where the TV is off and the whole family takes time to read or do a cross word puzzle.

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

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

### *Tips for kids*

**A Poet and You Didn't Know it:** Wearable art is in. Write a story or poem on an old pair of jeans.

**The Great Wall of Graffiti:** Decorate your bedroom walls with quotes from your favourite books or use comic book pages as wallpaper.

**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.

**So You Want to be an Actor?:** Practise your theatrical skills by dressing up as one of your favourite book characters and read the book aloud to your brother, mother or the family dog.

**Know it All:** Look up the meaning of funny words like “onomatopoeia” and test your parents’ word power!

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