



# **FAMILY LITERACY**

## **Tool Kit**

- ▷ Planning Guide
- ▷ Activities
- ▷ Resources



3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2026

The **Family Literacy Tool Kit** was initially conceptualized and developed by Literacy Quebec in 2019. For more information, please contact:

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# FOREWORD

## Welcome to the Family Literacy Tool Kit!

At Literacy Quebec, we believe that literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning and starts at home. Families play a crucial role in developing a child's reading, writing, and communication skills—skills that open doors to academic success, community and career opportunities, and a brighter future.

When parents and caregivers engage in learning with children, their own skills can improve. Literacy is a lifelong and life wide process. We have offered activities that can fit naturally into the busy schedules of families and be adapted to all literacy levels.

This **Family Literacy Tool Kit** is designed to support organizations like yours in promoting family literacy. Whether you work with parents, caregivers, educators, or community leaders, you'll find valuable resources, activities, and strategies to help families create literacy-rich environments.

Inside, you'll discover:

- Practical tips to encourage reading at home
- Engaging activities that make learning fun for all ages
- Guidance on building strong literacy habits as a family
- Ways to connect families with community literacy resources

By working together, we can empower families to foster a love of learning, strengthen literacy skills, and create a lasting impact.

Thank you for joining us in this important mission—let's get started!

Wendy Seys

President, Literacy Quebec  
January 2026

# ABOUT LITERACY QUEBEC



## Our Mission

Literacy Quebec is the voice for literacy that represents and connects the English-speaking community.

## Our Vision

We envision a Quebec where everyone has the literacy skills they need to live a fully engaged life.

## Our Core Values

Literacy Quebec is guided by the following core values:

- Literacy is a basic human right.
- Enable universal access to literacy services.
- Literacy is a lifelong process.
- Ongoing professional development for literacy providers is essential.
- Volunteers and community action matter.

## What We Do

Literacy Quebec engages in a range of activities to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of literacy in Quebec.
- Advocate for literacy.
- Provide professional development opportunities for literacy practitioners.
- Collaborate with literacy-related groups.

Literacy Quebec services include:

- LQ Academy: free e-courses on literacy topics, including Family Literacy.
- "What's Literacy?" podcast.
- A Literacy Helpline to provide referrals and support with literacy-related tasks.
- The Family Literacy Tool Kit. <https://literacyquebec.org/family-literacy/>

## Literacy Quebec Network Organizations

The Literacy Quebec network is comprised of 15 community-based member organizations providing front-line services to the English-speaking community. Their programming includes one-on-one tutoring, small group instruction, and diverse literacy initiatives. For contact information of our members see the **page 22** of this document or visit [www.literacyquebec.org](http://www.literacyquebec.org).

Literacy  Helpline

1-888-521-8181





# WHAT IS LITERACY?

## DEFINITIONS

There is no single definition of literacy. Some definitions focus on the individual and their capacities. Others focus on the skills required to perform tasks competently. None of these are mutually exclusive; each has a place in describing literacy.

### International definition

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)<sup>1</sup> defines literacy as the ability to understand, evaluate, use and engage with written texts to participate in society and achieve one's goals. This definition acknowledges the pervasive nature of literacy and its impact on all aspects of a person's life. At a societal level, stronger literacy skills support a stronger economy, civic participation, and social cohesion.

### PIAAC survey highlights pertaining to Quebec

A Survey of Adults Skills was conducted in 31 countries and economies so far in 2022-2023. In Canada,<sup>2</sup> adults aged 16 – 65 were surveyed in every province and territory, in both English and French (Official Language Minority groups), and assessed on a scale of below or at 1 (low) to 5 (high). In Quebec:

- 1 out of 5 adults (21.8%) scored at the lowest levels of literacy (level 1 or below).
- Many people below or at level 1 may read simple vocabulary and texts but struggle to understand and navigate complex information.
- 51.8% of the Quebec adult population aged 16-65 years is below level 3 (out of 5 levels).

### General messaging

- Literacy is more than reading and writing. “Literacy” includes skills such as numeracy, communication, collaboration, problem solving, adaptability, digital skills, and creativity and innovation.
- Literacy skills:
  - are needed for work, learning and life;
  - are the foundation for learning all other skills; and
  - help people evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change.
- “Low literacy” is the term used to describe situations where people struggle with print text (labels such as “illiterate” or “functionally illiterate” are no longer used).
- Literacy skills fall along a continuum and there is no single threshold that separates literate from non-literate.
- The daily practice of reading, writing and calculating maintains and improves our literacy skills. It’s the “use it or lose it” principle.
- Literacy is a set of skills that can be improved with practice, education and skills upgrading.
- The concept of “multiple literacies” assumes that individuals “read” the world and make sense of information by means other than traditional reading and writing.
- We live in an information society, meaning we depend a great deal on creating and distributing information through technology. This requires higher levels of literacy than at any previous time in human history.

1. Survey of Adult Skills 2023 Technical Report. OECD 2025. [https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/survey-of-adult-skills-2023-technical-report\\_80d9f692-en.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/survey-of-adult-skills-2023-technical-report_80d9f692-en.html) 2. Statistics Canada (2024). Table 37-10-0259-01. Average scores and distribution of proficiency levels in literacy, numeracy and adaptive problem solving, by age group and gender. <https://doi.org/10.25318/3710025901-eng>

# WHAT IS FAMILY LITERACY?

Family literacy is a term to describe learning activities that improve the reading, writing, numeracy, problem-solving, and creativity of all family members. Family literacy incorporates multi-generational and communal approaches to childcare, education, health, and well-being.

## Family literacy is:

- intergenerational;
- integrated into daily life;
- builds on existing community resources; and
- responsive to the cultural and social diversity of communities.

## Families come in all shapes and sizes!

Families include childcare providers, parents, guardians, grandparents, cousins, teachers, caretakers, community elders, etc.



## Family literacy, who benefits?

Everyone benefits by engaging in family literacy activities. Children develop skills to engage with the world around them. Adults with low literacy can participate in welcoming and supportive environments. Families develop routines around learning and creativity. And communities improve social cohesion and vitality.

### Children experience improved:

- achievements in school
- cognitive abilities
- motivation to read and learn
- positive self esteem

### Adults experience increased:

- involvement in the their child's learning path
- participation in child's success
- literacy skills

### Families experience increased:

- positive bonds between family members
- positive attitudes towards education and literacy

### Society experiences improved:

- literacy levels at all ages and levels of society
- community bonds
- graduation rates
- social inclusion



# BILINGUALISM AND FAMILY LITERACY

Language learning and literacy are directly linked. Many families in Quebec and Canada speak more than one language in the home, or are exposed to other languages outside the home. Children develop languages and literacy through socializations, daily routines, and cultural activities. In some cases, adults with low literacy are learning another language alongside their children. This means that in multi-lingual societies, degrees of language learning and literacy intersect with education, class, and socio-cultural influences. This requires families to navigate multifaceted learning opportunities for their situation. In all scenarios, families can support each other in literacy activities in a second language, learning together.

## Useful information<sup>3</sup>

- Babies can distinguish between languages using their senses. They see that different mouth movements and facial expressions change with languages. They hear that languages have different sounds and rhythms. They learn to distinguish between the languages as they grow.
- Children learning more than one language may insert words from one language into another. This is not a sign of confusion. They are being creative with language use to communicate.
- Learning one language's meaning, grammar, and vocabulary often makes it easier to learn the structure of another language, in both children and adults.
- Learning two language encourages flexibility in problem solving, stronger memory skills, and better focus.

## Practical tips for families to encourage bilingualism

There is no single strategy to increase bilingualism within families. Language learning and literacy approaches can be adapted to different family situations. Here are some practical tips:

**Remember:**  
**Children and adults**  
**can learn a language**  
**at any time.**  
**There is no limit!**

For children:<sup>4</sup>

- Start speaking to a child from birth as exposure can start the bilingual learning early on.
- Focus on high-quantity and high-quality interactions. Aim for a ratio between 30% to 50% exposure to each language for effective learning. Better quality interactions are from direct exposure to people (rather than from television or online) who are fluent speakers.
- Plan for bilingualism. One method is the one-parent-one-language approach. Another method is to speak one language in the home and another outside the home. The goal is to create consistent opportunities to be exposed to another language throughout childhood.
- Seek outside resources to support bilingual language learning. Storybooks and free online sources are available in the resource section of this tool kit. Many community centers and libraries across Canada have bilingual story time activities.

For adults:<sup>5</sup>

- Adults with low literacy learning another language respond best to strategies that include:
  - relevant application of what they learn to every day life (filling out forms, getting a driver's license, work-specific vocabulary, etc.);
  - use of a native language for clear instructions; and
  - varied activities, practices, and interactions, with a focus on experiential learning.

3. Byers-Heinlein, Li, Orena, and Levesque. 2021. "Benefits of Being Raised Bilingually." RSC COVID-19 Series, publication #72, Feb. 10. <https://rsc-src.ca/en/voices/benefits-being-raised-bilingually>. 4. Ibid. 5. The Centre for Literacy. 2008. "ESL and Literacy: Finding Common Ground, Serving Learners' Needs: A Survey of the Literature." <https://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/ESLLiteracy.pdf>

# HOSTING A FAMILY LITERACY EVENT

Why host a family literacy event? A family literacy event is a social opportunity. It supports building a culture around literacy activities and life-long learning. And it's fun!

## WHEN TO HOST A FAMILY LITERACY EVENT

ABC Life Literacy ([www.abclifeliteracy.ca](http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca)) declared January 27th Family Literacy Day in Canada. They have an annual theme, lots of great FREE resources, and bilingual content. You can host an event at any time and host multiple events throughout the year. Here is a list of some important literacy dates, which may help to plan your event(s)!



Any occasion can be an opportunity to promote family literacy. Have a look at your community calendar and partner with others to promote your event. For example, outdoor festivals and fairs are great venues for story time tents.

### BE REALISTIC IN YOUR EXPECTATIONS!

**Families are busy. They juggle work, extra curricular activities, and multiple schedules. Be conscious of this when planning the duration of your event.**



# WHERE TO HOST YOUR EVENT

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A LOCATION

### The size of your event

How much space do you need? How many people are expected? Can you adapt the space to look bigger or smaller if there are more or less people that show up? Determining your target audience will help decide the size of the event.

### Your budget

How much is the rental fee and what does it include? Are there any organizations you can share costs with? Do you have access to free space? Would a partner organization have space you could borrow?

### Your technical needs

Do you need power outlets? Wireless internet? A projector? Microphones? Speakers? Other equipment?

### Snacks and beverages

Do you need a refrigerator, sink, kettle, coffee maker or anything else?

### Furniture

Does the location have enough tables and chairs?

### Accessibility

Is there parking close by? Is it easy to get to by public transportation? Is it wheelchair accessible (ramp, elevator, etc.)?

### Adaptability

Are activities accessible and/or adaptable for people with different levels of literacy?

### Temperature control

Is there heating in winter/air conditioning in summer?

### Washroom facilities

Does your event require washroom facilities? For example, if arts and crafts are part of the activity, you may need a space to clean paintbrushes, wash hands, etc.

## LOCATION IS KEY!

The location should be inviting and visible. Lighting plays a big part in setting the welcoming and comfortable mood of a space. Using a location that is accessible to the community is ideal.

# PROMOTING YOUR EVENT

- 1** ➤ **The first step is identifying your target audience.** Once you have done that, determine the most effective ways to reach them. For example, reaching newly arrived refugee families can be done through the settlement organization in your area, whereas young parents may be more active on social media.
- 2** ➤ **Word of mouth is the oldest form of advertising,** because it works! Tell everyone you know about your event. Put up posters on local bulletin boards in businesses, libraries, and community groups. Remember to put a blurb in the community bulletin, the city newsletter, and the local newspaper.
- 3** ➤ **Cross promotion is effective** to ensure reaching your target audience. Partnering with an organization can help boost attendance while also presenting your organization to an entirely new group of people.

## Social media

Social media is a powerful tool for connecting to your audience, as well as promoting your services. Understanding who is where and how to reach them is the key to success. **Facebook** is the most common social media, used by the widest variety of people. **Instagram** tends to attract a younger audience, and offers a place to post and share images and videos. **TikTok** has the youngest users. You can produce short videos to promote events that are easy to film, edit, upload, and share across platforms. **YouTube** videos require the most work, but can be engaging. Other popular platforms such as **X** (formerly Twitter) and **Pinterest** have their benefits, but are not as useful for events. Once you have determined where your audience lies, the most important things to remember are frequency, consistency, and quality.

## TIP

**Social media posts that include images are seen more than posts without.**

## #hashtags

A hashtag is a word or phrase that is preceded by the # (number/pound) symbol, such as #literacy. Hashtags are a linking system, used to connect alike posts across a given social media platform. For example, a post has the hashtag #literacymatters. If someone were to input #literacymatters into the social media platform's search function, then all public posts with that hashtag will show up in the search results. When someone clicks on that hashtag, it would perform the same search function. Hashtags cannot have spaces, punctuation, or special characters.

Use hashtags as key words that allow users of that social media platform to find your event, with a mix of generic and specific hashtags. For example, generic hashtags indicate the topic of your event: #familyliteracyday, #literacymatters, etc. Specific hashtags permit someone to find information that is relevant to your event, for example: #librarystorytime, #communitybookswap, #bingoforbooks, etc.

## Your website is also important!

Your website should contain primary information so that visitors can learn who you are, where you are, and how to find out what you are doing. This information should be as current as possible. A static website should also house or hyperlink to details of your current events, with contact information. Remember, not everyone has accounts on social media, so your event details need to be findable without requiring people to make a separate account on social media in order to access important information.

# VOLUNTEERS

It is a good idea to enlist the help of volunteers both for the planning and running of the event. It is possible that you may need to recruit some new volunteers outside of your usual cohort. Before you start seeking help you should determine what you need help with and approximately how many volunteers you will need.

## RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

- 1 > Advertise within your organization and network. Your existing volunteers may be able to help.
- 2 > Contact the volunteer bureau in your area. They may help you find volunteers.
- 3 > Put up a poster on a community bulletin board or at a community center.
- 4 > Promote your volunteer opportunity on social media!

### TIP

**It is important to screen volunteers, particularly when hosting an event with children. Volunteer Canada has a handbook to improve the safety and quality of community events. ([volunteer.ca/screening](http://volunteer.ca/screening)).**

Communication is key to running a successful event. Be organized and share the game plan with all involved to help things run smoothly. There should be a designated go-to person for any issues or questions that may arise as the event progresses. Delegate tasks so that everyone is involved.

During your event, it is a good idea to make sure your volunteers are easily identifiable. This can be done with special name tags, t-shirts, lanyards, aprons, funny hats, etc.



# MAKE YOUR EVENT A SUCCESS!

Look for community partnerships, sponsorships and product donations for things you need for your event. This will help you cut costs while also raising awareness about your event. Cost sharing is also a good option. When different organizations work together, pool resources for maximum impact.

Remember that literacy is more than reading and writing. It includes music, drama, and arts and crafts. Be creative with your potential partnerships!

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Schools
  - Community centres
  - Libraries
  - Book stores
  - Family organizations
  - Community groups
  - Town fairs and festivals
  - CLSC or community clinics
  - Cafés and local businesses
  - Collective kitchens
  - Community gardens
- Museums, art galleries, cultural centres, local theatre groups
  - Youth groups (Girl Guides, Scouts, 4 H)

### WHO WANTS FREE STUFF?

**Send families home with something!**

**Pencils, temporary tattoos, and bookmarks can be fun & inexpensive giveaways.**

**Look for donations of books, too!**





Book-themed costumes are a big hit with children! Have a volunteer dress up as a popular book character. Book-themed photo booths with props are also a hit! Families can dress up and take photos together. Have a photographer (a volunteer with a camera will do) at the photo booth. Make the photos available to participants by email or through your website if possible.

## TIP

**When working with little or no budget, prioritize what is essential.**

Capitalize on the visibility that your event will bring to your organization. Keep in touch with the families who attend. Have participants register and invite them to subscribe to your newsletter. This is a great way to build your mailing list.

Also, registrations are a simple way to track how many families were reached through your event. This information can be used when seeking sponsorships, product donations and funding for future events.

**Ask the subject, or the parent/guardian of the subject if it's a child, to sign a waiver. Note which photo they appear in (i.e.: the number of the photo on the camera). Be prepared to remove any photos put online, if requested.**

## TIP

**Not everyone likes being in pictures—be respectful!**



# ACTIVITIES

The activities you organize at your event need to be suited to your theme and time frame. Determine the format of your event. Will you just have one big activity? Or stations with many smaller activities?

## Consider these things when planning your activity:

- 1 > Can people just pop in?
- 2 > Is there a reading/activity at a certain time?
- 3 > If families arrive late, can they still participate?

## FAMILY LITERACY ACTIVITIES

### Host a book swap!

Book swaps are awesome. Most people will read a book once and then never read it again. We tend to hold on to these books “just in case.” Book swaps allow for participants to declutter their shelves and give them the opportunity to experience a new book.

### Alphabet banner

Make a huge banner of the whole alphabet in bubble letters. Participants can work together to colour in the letters. Whatever they draw inside the letter should start with the letter that they are filling in.



### Bookmark making

Let children create or decorate a bookmark. This is a nice way to add some fun to the reading experience. You can provide precut rigid paper with a hole punched in the top and some wool or ribbon to tie through. Paint chips are also the perfect size. Other unconventional options could be popsicle sticks or bead bookmarks. An assortment of craft supplies can be left on the table with a few samples for inspiration.



### Bingo for books

Bingo for books is a great way to distribute new and lightly used books! You may have these books already lying around or you can ask for donations. At the event, set up a table(s) with all of the books. You can arrange the books on the table by reading level. Each time someone gets a BINGO, they can pick up a book from the prize table!

### Reading tents

Have reading tents at your event! Families can sit in a tent and take turns reading a new story together.

### Pyjama party

Are you hosting your event in the evening? Make it a pyjama party! Children (and their parents) will enjoy wearing pyjamas and it will get them in the mood for bed time reading.

### Guest author

Do you have a children's author in your community? Reach out to them and ask them to do a book reading and signing at your event!



### Library scavenger hunt

This is a great activity if you are hosting your event at the community library, or in the library of a local school. Distribute the Scavenger Hunt lists to the families. Encourage adults to assist the children and not just do it for them. Families can work together to find all of the items on the list. When they are done, they can trade in their list for a new book! Here are some ideas for your list, but feel free to customize your list to suit your library.

#### SCAVENGER HUNT

- a picture book
- a chapter book
- a holiday book
- a kid's magazine
- a book in another language
- a book about science
- an audio-book
- a comic book

### Host a book walk

A book walk is a great way to encourage families and classes to learn together and adopt healthy lifestyle choices. An ideal location for this type of activity would be in the park, but it could definitely be adapted to other outdoor locations. Pick a children's book (though any book will do). Mount each page of the book onto a board, and number each board to correspond with the page number. Attach the board to a stake and set them up across the whole park. Families can walk through the park from page to page stopping to read each board.

### Literacy Olympics

Set up a series of challenges that need to be completed. This does not have to be a race, but families may receive prizes for completing the entire route. Putting a puzzle together, filling in the blanks of a story that is already written, following instructions to a crafting project: these are all tasks that incorporate literacy fun.



### Create a comic book

Write a comic book as a family or class! Use drawings and words to tell a story in the form of a comic. Work together to develop the storyline and characters.



## Growing together

Gardening can be a fun family literacy activity. Depending on the size of your event and the number of volunteers, this could be a workshop or something larger with themed stations. Gardening tools, photos of various vegetable fields, and the vegetables themselves can all be used as educational displays.



You can start by learning about the optimal environment needed to grow seedlings and plants. How much light and water do they need? Have families discuss where they would set up their own garden.

Seeds can be compared to the vegetables they will become and to other seeds. Let families choose which seeds they would like to plant and have the necessary supplies available for them to take home. For seeds to germinate they need warmth, water and oxygen. Seeds can be wrapped in moistened cotton balls and put into almost any type of container. Glass jars, paper cups, milk cartons and yogurt cups are all inexpensive or free options.

Components of numeracy can be added by counting the seeds, comparing the cost of seeds versus the cost of the vegetables, as well as discussing and keeping a daily log of their observations.

## Collaborative storytelling

Write a collaborative story! Have one person start writing a story on a piece of lined paper, but they can't tell anyone the details of the story. Once the first person has written a paragraph, fold the top of the paper down, so that only the last line can be seen. Pass the paper to the next person. The second person continues the story based only on the last visible line. Once the second person has completed a paragraph, they do the same thing and fold the paper, so only their last line is visible. Then, they pass it on. Continue this until everyone has had the chance to contribute to the story. Once the story is done, have someone read it aloud!

## Writing kit

Fill a backpack or box with:

- Stationery, note-cards, and postcards
- Paper: lined, patterned, coloured
- Postage stamps and envelopes
- Erasers and scissors
- Markers, pens, pencils, and coloured pencils
- Stickers and labels
- Tape and glue sticks
- Sparkles and sparkle glue
- Ink stampers and ink pads



# FAMILY LITERACY AT HOME

Encourage families to continue the family literacy fun at home. Here are some ways of incorporating family literacy into your daily routine.

## Family board game night

Play a board game such as Scrabble, Boggle, Scattergories, or Pictionary. These games are a great way to get everyone get involved while exercising your literacy skills. Even better, invent your own board game! Work together as a family to develop the board and the rules. Remember to test it out when you are done!

## Alphabet food

Who says you can't play with your food? Letter-shaped food can add some literacy fun to your meal time. Look for alphabet-shaped pasta next time you're at the grocery store. Cut cheese and other foods into letters or make alphabet pancakes (use a squirt bottle for the batter). Spell your favourite words! *Idea courtesy of RECLAIM Literacy.*



## Family story time

Set aside one night a week for family story time. Take turns each week and have one family member read a story to the rest of the family. You can even write your own story and read it aloud! Reinvent a classic story and pretend that each family member is a character in the story.

## Story in a bag

Have a magical bag, preferably with a drawstring to avoid losing pieces, filled with characters and objects. The first person picks an item out of the bag and uses it as inspiration for their part of the story. The person must make something up on the spot. Once completed, they must pass the bag onto the next person who will continue the tale with the item they select.



## Storyline

Have three containers marked: location, character name and genre. Fill each one with pieces of paper that have suggestions for each. For example, the genres could be fiction, comedy, tragedy, etc. Pick one location, one character name and one genre, then have all participants take ten minutes to write a story that incorporates these elements. Share your creations with one another. An alternative would be to have each participant choose a story-starter from container and create their own story.

## Draw me a word

Divide players into teams of at least two people. The first team will have one sketcher and the other players are the guessers. One team chooses the word that must be drawn, writes it on a piece of paper and passes it to the sketcher. The sketching team has a limited amount of time to guess what the word is. Once they have guessed correctly or run out of time, the teams switch. Sketchers within each team alternate every turn.

## Intergenerational storytelling through cooking and meal sharing

This activity can be adapted to all families seeking to learn cultural knowledge from grandparents, caregivers, and community elders. It is an opportunity to share stories and learn skills with hands-on experience.

Have your child prepare a meal with a grandparent or elder. Designate your child as an interviewer conducting historical research on the family. Using open-ended prompts, develop questions with your child based on themes of family history, personal memories, and general wisdom.



Examples:

- What are we making?
- Why is this recipe important?
- Who taught you this recipe? When did you first make it?
- Did you have to make any changes to the recipe (over time, over different locations)?
- Are there special ingredients? Where do you get them?
- What cooking traditions do you want to pass on?

### Advanced options:

**Create a cookbook of family recipes using graphic design software (Canva has a free version). Each recipe can include a brief story and images.**

**Record the audio of family history interviews (use a phone or digital recorder). Using audio-visual editing software, create a short documentary audio-book or video about family recipes and their histories.**

### TIP

**Libraries, community centers, or after-school programs may offer free or low cost access to audio-visual equipment and training for teens.**

## INCORPORATE LITERACY INTO EVERYDAY!

Play word games, sing together, write a letter to someone, make a shopping list, or try out a new recipe together!

Need to look something up online? Use your literacy skills as a family to navigate the web.

Consider keeping a family journal. Everyone can write about the best part of their day.

# FREE ONLINE RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES



## Libby

Libby, by Overdrive is a books app that allows kids and adults to browse and borrow ebooks and audiobooks from public libraries for free. A library card is required to download or stream borrowed books. The app connects users to their local library's ebook and audiobook collection. Users can sample books, put titles on hold, and track reading activities. <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby>

## Bedtime bilingual story time

Designate regular nights of the week to reading bedtime stories in a second language or read bilingual books. Check out Storybooks Canada's website (<https://www.storybookscanada.ca>) for free books and audio-books, which can be read, listened to, and downloaded in English and French—and other languages!

## Books in the public domain

Loyal Books has free public domain audiobooks and ebook downloads. (<https://www.loyalbooks.com>)

## Storyline online

This website streams videos featuring actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. (<https://storylineonline.net>)

## Health literacy activities from the Government of Canada

The Government of Canada offers a free Toolkit for Educators focused on health literacy and nutrition. Activities are divided by age groups, and include topics in art, science, numeracy, and social studies. (<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/toolkit-educators>)

## Design and write a book online

Some digital design websites offer free versions to make ebooks. Choose a format and template, then write and illustrate a story to download an ebook: Adobe (<https://www.adobe.com/express/create/book/ebook>), Canva (<https://www.canva.com/create/ebooks>), and Visme (<https://www.visme.co/ebook-creator>).

## Online word scrambles

Make your own word scramble lists based on specific themes or family interests. Insert the words, and the scrambler will produce a list. (<https://www.education.com/worksheet-generator/reading/word-scramble>)

### Space words:

- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. CSSOOM _____     | Answer key    |
| 2. ANUEBL _____     | 10. SUPERNOVA |
| 3. OITBR _____      | 9. PLANET     |
| 4. YALXGA _____     | 8. SATELLITE  |
| 5. EOIRSDAT _____   | 7. PLANET     |
| 6. SIUENERV _____   | 6. UNIVERSE   |
| 7. ELNPAT _____     | 5. ASTEROID   |
| 8. ELSETILAT _____  | 4. GALAXY     |
| 9. ATPNLE _____     | 3. ORBIT      |
| 10. ONPUVSAER _____ | 2. NEBULA     |
|                     | 1. COSMOS     |

### Dinosaur words:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. FSLOIS _____        | Answer key       |
| 2. CJSURASI _____      | 10. EXTINCTION   |
| 3. SARUETCCOE _____    | 9. PTERODACTYL   |
| 4. TOAIPCRSETR _____   | 8. VELOCIRAPTOR  |
| 5. YNUSUROAATRSN _____ | 7. OMNIVORE      |
| 6. IHTIEROCPSR _____   | 6. PREHISTORIC   |
| 7. EOVMNIOR _____      | 5. TYRANNOSAURUS |
| 8. VOTLCIROEPAR _____  | 4. TRICERATOPS   |
| 9. ETCDOLYRPTA _____   | 3. CRETACEOUS    |
| 10. OECTXTNINI _____   | 2. JURASSIC      |
|                        | 1. FOSSIL        |

### Music words:

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. RYMHHT _____      | Answer key     |
| 2. YMOELD _____      | 10. SINGER     |
| 3. GARIUT _____      | 9. CHORD       |
| 4. NAOPI _____       | 8. SYNTHESIZER |
| 5. RMSUD _____       | 7. LYRICS      |
| 6. PEMOT _____       | 6. TEMPO       |
| 7. LSYICR _____      | 5. DRUMS       |
| 8. ZNETSSIEYRH _____ | 4. PIANO       |
| 9. OHRCD _____       | 3. GUITAR      |
| 10. RINSEG _____     | 2. MELODY      |
|                      | 1. RHYTHM      |

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# RESOURCES

## Resources

- ABC Life Literacy <https://abclifeliteracy.ca>
- Canadian Child Care Federation <https://cccf-fcsge.ca>
- Canadian Parents for French <https://cpf.ca>
- Centre for Family Literacy <https://famlit.ca>
- Chapter One - Global Free Library <https://library.chapterone.org/#/en-CA>
- Global Sprouts - Indigenous Intergenerational Storytelling <https://www.globalsprouts.com/blogs/explore-more/intergenerational-storytelling-lessons-from-indigenous-cultures>
- Librarianship.ca fine-free libraries <https://librarianship.ca/features/fine-free-libraries-in-canada>
- Storybooks Canada <https://www.storybookscanada.ca>
- Volunteer Canada <https://www.volunteer.ca/screening>

## Research

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- The Centre for Literacy. 2008. "ESL and Literacy: Finding Common Ground, Serving Learners' Needs: A Survey of the Literature." Retrieved Dec. 9, 2025. <https://www.centreforliteracy.qc.ca/sites/default/files/ESLLiteracy.pdf>

## Literacy Quebec

Visit [www.literacyquebec.org](http://www.literacyquebec.org) to access these resources and more.

- LQ Academy is a collection of free eLearning courses designed for anyone who wants to explore and learn more about a wide range of literacy-related topics, including a Family Literacy course.
- *What's Literacy?* podcast for English-speaking, lifelong literacy learners in Quebec. It explores topics around community building, lifelong curiosity, and the multiple types of literacy.
- Literacy Quebec Helpline 1-888-521-8181.
- A digital copy of the Family Literacy Tool Kit. <https://literacyquebec.org/family-literacy/>
- Recent news and events.



# Literacy Quebec

## FAMILY LITERACY Tool Kit

Access this tool kit online!

