SUMMER SLIDE WORKSHOP

June 2017

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Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative

Brought to you by:

Event supported by Crime Prevention Ottawa
AGENDA
JUNE 22, 2016

9:30am  Introduction – Summer Slide
        Practical Tips for Reading with Children
        Using the Lit Kit
        Evaluating the kit

11:00am  Wrap-Up

You are encouraged to decorate your superhero mask during this presentation!
WHY IS READING IMPORTANT OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS?

To stop the summer slide and set kids up for success!
WHAT IS THE SUMMER SLIDE?

- *Summer slide* describes the phenomenon of loss of academic skills that many children experience over the summer months.
  - On average, children lose just over one month of skills in math, reading and language arts¹
  - Loss is even more exaggerated for low income children (average 3 months behind their peers in reading skills)¹
  - Loss is cumulative!²

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Provide high quality summer programming that integrates literacy and encourages reading
  - While ensuring access to books and resources is important, it’s not enough; children are more likely to take advantage of these when guided and engaged\(^1\)
  - The number of books a child reads during the summer month is positively related to their future success academic and otherwise\(^2\)


ACTIVITIES THAT FOSTER LITERACY SKILLS

http://everychildreadytoread.org/
READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN

- Not just for young children...
  - Expands vocabulary
  - Models correct pronunciation, enunciation and flow of language
  - Promotes active listening and focusing
  - Shared experience
HOW TO READ TO CHILDREN

▪ Create a designated reading area
  ▪ Corner/section of the room
  ▪ Make it comfortable (mats, bean bags)
  ▪ Ensure everyone has wiggle room
  ▪ Ensure everyone can see

▪ Engage the audience
  ▪ Provide a choice of books
  ▪ Ask questions i.e. What do you think will happen?
  ▪ Vary it – repeat words, speak SOFTER & LOUDER
  ▪ Provide fidget toys/colouring (children don’t need to be still to listen)
HOW TO PICK THE RIGHT BOOK

- Based on their interest
- Right amount of challenge – Follow the Five Finger Rule

Five Finger Rule

- 0-1 = too easy
- 2-3 = just right
- 4 = okay to try
- 5+ = too hard

*Open a book to any page. Start reading. Hold up a finger every time you see a word you do not know.*
THE LIT KIT

Special thank you to G. Coulhart for the cover art!
WHAT IS THE LIT KIT?

- Simple and adaptable tool for summer program staff to integrate reading and literacy in new ways in their summer program!
LIT KIT CONTENT

✓ **Guidebook**
  - *Tips* for overcoming challenges and supporting children struggling with reading
  - *Activities* for children ages 4-6 & 7-12

✓ **CD**
  - with templates of the activities & crafts for printing
  - *Book list* based on age, reading level & theme; suggested by OPL

✓ **Box** with some of the materials for the activities and crafts
GUIDEBOOK ORGANIZATION

1. Introduction
   - Why summer literacy is important
   - Overview of the Lit Kit
   - Reading with Children

2. General Activities
   - Divided by age

3. Themed Activities
   - Divided by theme and age

4. Teaching Tips
   - General Tips
   - Identifying and working with struggling readers
HOW TO USE THE GUIDEBOOK TO SUPPORT LITERACY

Children need to develop **5 key literacy skills** in order to become competent readers:

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Decoding
4. Vocabulary building
5. Storytelling

Each activity supports at least one key literacy skill...

Look for the symbols at the top of each activity!
ACTIVE PLAY IN LITERACY

Look for this symbol to find out which activities support active play!

Literacy is more than just reading books!

Many of the activities support literacy through active play...
COMPLIMENTING READING WITH THE LIT KIT

• Remember that the activities and crafts in the toolkit should be used with books not instead of books.
• Books include picture books, novels, comics, factual texts and more!
• Consult the OPL book list included in the kit for ideas.
ACTIVITIES

General Activities

- Quick games to pick up and use anytime – during transitions, end of the day, etc.
- Ex. word hunts, waterchalk art, rhyming games, etc.

Themed Activities

- Crafts & games designed to be easily integrated in existing programming
- Common themes such as: CSI, animals & insects, superheroes and more!
LET’S TRY ONE!
Create your own superhero name!

How does this activity support literacy?
SCENARIOS
SCENARIO #1

You have a group of noisy, active 4-6 year olds. You have tried reading books together but the children talk loudly and don’t listen.

How can you encourage the group to listen?
SCENARIO #2

You are working with youth (12-16) and want to integrate literacy into their programming.

Identify which activities you could use from the Lit Kit and how you would adapt these to suit an older age group.
1. Teach literacy in a variety of ways (games, crafts, posters, songs, books, etc.)
2. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of all children.
3. Create a rotating book bar.
4. Have signs, posters and books available for the children to read.
5. Have fun with literacy!
TAKE AWAY MESSAGES

You can make a big difference....

• By providing kids with a positive space to play and learn
• By promoting a love of reading
• By offering support when a child is struggling
• By engaging them in literacy activities that will help prepare them for school, work and life
BEFORE

**AFTER**

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**Baldo** by Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

**June 01, 2012**

PARTING IS SUCH SWEET SORROW, BUT WHILE WE CANNOT DELAY THESE APPROACHING DAYS OF LEISURE, I MUST LEAVE ASSURED...

THAT YOU AND I EQUALLY WILL SURVIVE THIS DREADFUL SEPARATION.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

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EVALUATIONS

1. Workshop evaluation
2. End of Summer Evaluation (Lit Kit)
FOLLOW-UP DURING THE SUMMER

- Email communication
- End of summer evaluation

- Your contact during the summer:
  - Shannel (swattcharley@growingupgreat.ca)
REMEMBER TO...

- Complete the **workshop evaluation** at your table
- Share your **feedback and success stories** with info@growingupgreat.ca
MORE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

- OPL offers institutional cards
  - Any branch can issues this
  - Card is free
  - Write letter on organization letterhead to request the card

Contact:

Jessica Roy
Librarian, Children’s Services
Program Development
QUESTIONS?
Thank you!

A special thank you to Crime Prevention Ottawa for supporting this event.

Contact us: info@growingupgreat.ca