

FAMILY LITERACY TIPS – FALL

Reading Rocks!

Share a book with your child while waiting to see the doctor or while you ride the bus.

Take your child to story time at your branch of the Ottawa Public Library and borrow some books while you're there.

Create a library at home by checking out garage sales and the great deals in the bookstores run by the Friends of the Library. You can also exchange books with friends.

Snuggle with your child and read a story or two at bedtime. You'll probably have to read your child's favourite book over and over again! Be patient, it will help her to learn.

Sing songs and share rhymes that celebrate fall.

Have You Ever Seen a Pumpkin (tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie")

Have you ever seen a pumpkin, a pumpkin, a pumpkin,
Have you ever seen a pumpkin, that grows on a vine?
A round one, a tall one, a fat one, a small one.
Have you ever seen a pumpkin, that grows on a vine?



Math is Fun!

Make up number stories with your child about what you see and do. "We went to the park and saw six bears having a picnic...."

Check the calendar for the dates of special events. You can even make and decorate a calendar with your child.

When you and your child cook dinner or make cookies, let them help to measure the ingredients.

Sing number songs (This Old Man He Played One) and share number rhymes (One, Two, Buckle My Shoe) at home, in the car or on the bus.

Pumpkin Count

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate:
The first one said, oh my, it's getting late!
The second one said, there are witches in the air.
The third one said, but we don't care.
The fourth one said, let's run and run and run.
The fifth one said, I'm ready for some fun!
"Ooooh, Ooooh" said the wind and out went the light.
And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

Let's Go Outdoors!

Autumn-time is Coming

(sung to the tune of Frere Jacques)

Red leaves falling
Red leaves falling
On the ground
On the ground
Autumn-time is coming
Autumn-time is coming
All around
All around

Orange leaves falling
Orange leaves falling
On the ground
On the ground
Autumn-time is coming
Autumn-time is coming
All around
All around

Brown leaves scattered
Brown leaves scattered
On the ground
On the ground
Autumn-time is now here
Autumn-time is now here
All around
All around



Puddle jumping

We all know that children love jumping in puddles! This game allows them to do so while learning something new. Before the children jump in the puddles, ask them to estimate how high the water will splash up. Ask them to show you with their measuring tape or ruler. Next, encourage the children to jump in the puddle and ask parents or care providers to measure exactly how high the water splashed up. Compare the two numbers and start over again. During the jumping, encourage children to explain why some puddles splash higher than others.....

Foot Volleyball

A fun new way of playing volleyball! For this activity, it may be best to allow the children to play together; having adults around might make it hard for little ones to have their turn at kicking the ball. You don't need two teams (but with older children you can have two teams), the children must work together to keep the ball up in the air for as long as possible. You can add some challenges like; the ball must be kicked by 3 people before it touches the ground, only the girls can kick and then the boys etc... the point is to have fun and get some exercise!