

Family Literacy

Family Literacy promotes the involvement of parents and extended family members in the child's educational programs and the development of literacy skills. This is accomplished through "interactive take-home" literacy activities, parent involvement in the classrooms, activities to teach parents how to promote literacy in the home, opportunities in the classrooms for children to develop appropriate literacy skills and training for parents to improve literacy skills.

The four components of family literacy are:

- Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
- Training for parents on how to be a primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children.
- Parent literacy training that leads to self-sufficiency.
- An age appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

This definition is found in four separate pieces of legislation:

The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

Head Start Act

Reading Excellence Act

Title I, Part B: Even Start Literacy Programs

Suggested Family Literacy Activities

Lending Library

Family Reading Nights at school

Book Exchange for families

Classroom Family Night

Family Game Night (Ex: Literacy Bingo)

Activities at the local libraries for parents and children

Library Card Sign-up/Drive

Make-and-Take workshops to create books or literacy props

Favorite Book Character Parade

Family Memory Boxes

Author and Storyteller Nights

Newsletters highlighting book reviews, good literacy websites, and turning everyday living (cooking, grocery shopping, yard work, etc.) into literacy-rich experiences.

Below are some internet websites which give information, ideas, and news concerning Family Literacy. This list is not exhaustive. We encourage you to explore the internet to find your own favorite web resources!

American Literacy Association www.ala.org

Community Partnerships for Adult Learning www.c-pal.net

Family Education Network www.fen.com

Family Literacy: An Annotated Bibliography
www.ed.gov/pubs/Family_Lit_2000

Family Literacy Foundation www.read2kids.org

Georgia PTA www.georgiapta.org

Kids Source On line www.kidsource.com

Literacy Action, Inc. www.literacyaction.org

National Center for Family Literacy www.famlit.org

National Even Start Association www.evenstart.org

National Education Association www.nea.org/parents/

National Institute for Literacy www.nifl.gov

Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. www.patnc.org

Reading is Fundamental: Parents www.rif.org/parents

Reading Rainbow www.gpn.unl.edu/rainbow

Ready To Learn www.thirteen.org/readytolearn