What is Family Literacy?

Family Literacy is the connection of reading, writing, speaking, and listening at home between parents/caregivers and their children. Although family literacy is for parents and children of any age, the use of this particular document is intended for families of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and children entering Kindergarten.

Additionally, Family Literacy includes providing parents with the tools you need to help your child grow as readers and writers at home.

Developing early literacy skills makes it easier for children to learn to read. Children introduced to reading early on tend to read earlier and these advantages allow them to excel in school compared to children who are not exposed to language and books at a young age (American Academy of Pediatrics).

Learning about the importance of literacy, using our literacy tips and activities, and implementing community resources will provide you with powerful knowledge and participation in your child’s education before they even start school.

Tips/Activities:

- Let your child ‘catch’ you reading. The more they see you modeling reading as a positive behavior, the more your child will want to read.
  
  https://www.readingrockets.org/article/what-parents-can-do-reading-tips-kids
• Make reading a daily activity in your house. Set aside a time that all electronics are turned off, and everyone simply reads. This will help show the importance of literacy and create a routine to follow.  
https://youtu.be/iMJ5pB0st5k

• Read to your child. Discuss what’s happening on the pages, point things out, and ask questions.  
https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child

• Choose books around topics that your child enjoys.  

• Reread the same books. Encourage your child to join in the reading of the familiar text.  

• Point out print to your child. Print is everywhere: signs, storefronts, billboards. Your child will begin to recognize letters and words around them.  
https://www.pre-kpages.com/ideas-using-environmental-print/

• Letter Play: Encourage your child to play with magnetic letters on the refrigerator or on the table.  
https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2016/08/5-ways-to-use-magnetic-letters-free-printables.html

• More Letter Play: Have your child match the lowercase a,b,c’s to the uppercase a,b,c’s.  
https://nurturestore.co.uk/car-play-mat-printable-for-transport-theme-learning-activities

• Letter and Sound Play: Help your child complete an alphabet puzzle. Can they say the sounds the letters make?  
https://thisreadingmama.com/build-flower-letter-sounds-sort/

• Sound Play: Have your child name objects in a room that begin with the same letter/sound.  
https://youvegotthismath.com/2016/07/18/cookietraybeginninglettersound/

• Rhyme Time: With a ball, say a short word (dog), toss the ball to your child and have them come up with a word that rhymes (dog-log). Continue with different rhyming words. To build upon this skill, say a longer word (apple). Again, toss the ball to your child and have them come up with a longer word that rhymes (apple-bapple). It is okay if they come up with a ‘nonsense word’, as long as it rhymes!  
https://handsonaswegrow.com/preschooler-game-alphabet-ball/

• Talk to your children - a lot. Immerse them in language all day long. Reading is language. They need to hear it, speak it, and then be able to read it.
Literacy involves reading and writing. Encourage your child to “write”. Have pencils, markers, paper, crayons available for them to write a picture, note, or story about what you have been reading together. Talk with them about what they have written.

Books to Explore:
Below are some suggested titles you may find at your local library to help you dive into literacy!

**ABC Books:**
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin
- *LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker
- *Alphabet City* by Stephen T. Johnson
- *Alphabet Under Construction* by Denise Fleming
- *Superhero ABC* by Bob McLeod
- *Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC* by June Sobel
- *I Spy Letters* by Jean Morzollo
- *A to Z* by Sandra Boyton
- *The Letters are Lost* by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- *Eating the Alphabet* by Lois Ehlert
- *Alphablock* by Christopher Franceschelli
ABC USA by Martin Jarrie
Animal Alphabet by Alex Lluch
Z is for Moose by Kelly Bingham

Rhyming Books:
A Frog in the Bog by Karma Wilson
A Was Once an Apple Pie by Edward Lear
Mother Goose Treasury by Parragon Books
Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
The Pout Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin
Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner
How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight by Jane Yolen and Teagun
Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson
Jamberry by Bruce Degen
Moo, Baa, La La La by Sandra Boynton
The Going to Bed Book by Sandra Boynton
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Numeracy Books:
Chicka Chicka 123 by Bill Martin
I Spy Numbers by Jean Marzollo
Animal Numbers: Slide & Seek the 123s by Alex Lluch
Math Fables by Greg Tang
1, 2, 3! By Sandra Boynton
How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
Doggies by Sandra Boynton
Click Clack, Splish Splash by Doreen Cronin
Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
Olivia Counts by Ian Falconer
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
How Many Bugs in a Box by David A. Carter
Fish Eyes by Lois Ehlert

Online/Digital Tools:
Websites:
- http://daybydayny.org/ (NYS Family Literacy Calendar)
- https://www.starfall.com/h/
Apps:

- **Endless Alphabet** by Originator
  (Apple, Android, Amazon)
- **Endless 123** by Originator
  (Apple, Android, Amazon)
- **Interactive Alphabet** by Piikea Street
  (Apple)
- **Photo Touch ABC** by Innovative Investments Limited (Apple)
- **Little Writer** by Innovative Mobile Apps (Apple)
- **Little Matchups ABC Alphabet** by Innovative Investments Limited (Apple)
- **Kindergarten Math** by Innovative Investments Limited (Apple)
- **ABC Mouse** by Age of Learning Inc.
  (Apple, Android)
- **Shape-O ABCs** by Bellamon
  (Apple)
- **AlphaTots Alphabet** by Little 10 Robot (Apple, Android, Amazon)
- **TallyTots Counting** by Little 10 Robot (Apple, Android)

Local Preschools:
Cazenovia Children's House
2757 Highway 20
Cazenovia, NY
315-655-5437
[https://cazenoviachildrenshouse.org/](https://cazenoviachildrenshouse.org/)
Cazenovia Community Preschool
49 Burton Street
Cazenovia, NY
315-815-4320
http://www.cazenoviacommunitypreschool.com/contact.html

Rippleton Center
3360 Rippleton Thompson Road
Cazenovia, NY
315-256-8151
https://www.rippletoncenter.com/

Community Resources:

100 Albany Street, Cazenovia, NY
Phone: 315-655-9322
Hours of Operation:
Monday: Friday: 9 am- 9 pm
Saturday: 10 am- 5 pm

https://www.cazenoviapubliclibrary.org/

The Cazenovia Library has Infant to preschool age activities year round. They also offer school age children's activities in the summer and throughout the year. Please check with the library to find out what great literacy activities they have planned.

Community Action Partnership works with families and children, specializing in home visits, for early child development along with access to preschool preparation:
The New Woodstock Library has children’s activities throughout the year. Please contact the library to get a schedule of literacy activities that they are currently offering.
Caz Cares offers infant to preschool age activities throughout the year. School age children can join activities offered during breaks and summer vacation. Please call the CazCares Story Room for their literacy activities' schedule.

**Literacy Coalition of Madison County Presents - Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is **FREE** for any child (from birth until their fifth birthday) that lives within the Madison County. Each month, your child will receive a book in the mail. To sign up, simply go to [https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/](https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/) and follow the directions to sign up or you can go to your local library. They have brochures to fill out and mail in.

**New York State Next Generation Standards:**

What are the NYS Next Generation Standards?
The new Next Generation Learning Standards have been revised. They describe what students are expected to know and be able to do at various grade levels for English Language Arts and Math. These standards have been updated with input from both teachers and parents. ([NYSUT.org](http://www.nysut.org))

For more information about the new standards, please click on the following links:

Crosswalk for Pre-Kindergarten:

Crosswalk for Kindergarten:
NYS English Language Arts Learning Standards:

Contact:
If you have any comments or questions about this document on family literacy, please contact one of our reading specialists:

Priscilla Lenning- plenning@caz.cnyric.org

Carrie Fey- clarochellefey@caz.cnyric.org

Or call us at Burton Street Elementary School (315) 655-1325