

National Strategy for Early Literacy

*Presentation by the
Ottawa Public Library*

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Ottawa Public Library

- Largest bilingual (English-French) public library in North America
- 32 urban, suburban and rural branches and one Main Library
- Serves population of over 900,000
- Area is 4 x size of city of Toronto
- 25 million uses in 2008

What we want to be!

- Centre of community learning
- Cathedral of curiosity
- Place for the soul to loaf
- Safe haven for kids, stimulating for teens
- Community gathering place
 - Both physical and virtual
- Convenient, comfortable, accessible
- House of healing for the soul

Mission

Ottawa Public Library

To build a strong Ottawa community by supporting literacy and lifelong learning, fostering inspiration and enjoyment and connecting people to each other and the world.

Literacy and Mission

- Supports OPL commitment to bring the world of literacy and reading to our youngest community members.
- From newborns through to teens, the OPL strives to develop and provide services, collections, programs and spaces that promote literacy and the love of reading
- Over 8,000 reading and literacy-based programs for 169,000 participants in 2008

Strategic Directions 2008-2011

- Provide responsive service
- Develop partnerships for accessible and effective service
- Develop our places and spaces
- Build a New Central Library
- Be an accountable and innovative organization

OPL and Improving National Literacy Outcomes

Three core areas

- Early literacy
- Family literacy
- Middle years literacy

Early Literacy

- Definition: What kids know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write
- Library partners with parents and caregivers
- 1,2,3 Read with me-Infant Literacy

Early Literacy (2)

- Every Child Ready to Read @ your library
 - Parent workshops
 - Library pre-school programs
 - OPL led in translating materials into Fr
 - Concepts being extended into planning for new and renovated **spaces**
 - Spaces promote early literacy through services collections and special space
 - Explore the pleasure of the written language

Family literacy

- Definition: Focusing on parents or other family members to take a lead role in encouraging their children's literacy development
- Through services that:
 - Focus on children and youth as part of family and community
 - Promote lifelong love of learning
 - Encourage development and love of reading

Family literacy services (2)

- Parent child book clubs
- Booklists
- Suggested reading for children
- Promotion of family literacy at school and community literacy events
- Children's and parenting collections to support the pursuit of family literacy

Middle Years Literacy

- Supporting children six to twelve to become competent readers and learners
- Kids' needs include:
 - Fulfilling their own interests and abilities
 - Becoming independent
 - Quenching their thirst for knowledge in developmentally suitable ways

Middle Years Literacy (2)

- Services are both traditional and electronic
- Complement kids' formal and informal life-long learning
- Enrich environment
- Actively promote literacy and love of reading

Middle Years Literacy (3)

- Collections that promote both formal and information learning
- Written literacy awareness through
 - *Awesome Authors Youth Writing Contest*
- TD Summer Reading Club
 - Stems “summer learning loss”
 - 14,090 kids read 69,000 books in 2008

Middle Literacy (4)

- Online resources to support literacy, learning and love of reading
- Award winning children's website has online bookclub
 - Review favourite books
 - Create games and puzzles for other kids
 - See what their friends are reading

OPL Suggestions to NSEL

- Engage, use and leverage Canada's public library community and network
- Implement national research on effects of early literacy interventions in public libraries to improve literacy outcomes
- Support programs and initiatives in all public libraries to improve literacy outcomes

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Thank you / Merci

Barbara Clubb

City Librarian/Bibliothécaire municipale

Ottawa Public Library

Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

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