

Celebrate BC Family Literacy Week 2024



Families have many learning opportunities by planning and holding a family party during Family Literacy.

January 17, Vancouver, BC – The Province of British Columbia has proclaimed Family Literacy Week (January 21-28, 2024) in British Columbia. Families are encouraged to celebrate by reading books, playing games, cooking or attending local events together.

Family Literacy Week is an annual BC campaign that recognizes the importance of family literacy. The week includes ABC Life Literacy Canada's Family Literacy Day, celebrated nationally each year on January 27.

“Literacy is important to our daily tasks and helps families and communities thrive,” said Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs. “Making the time to read together, attend a literacy event or working on a puzzle as a family, plays a vital role in children’s development through creating lifelong memories and opportunities. As a former special education teacher who supports lifelong learning, I am proud of the great work Decoda Literacy solutions, our libraries, and community partners have done for literacy in B.C.”

Each year, the Province provides more than \$2 million in support of community literacy to Decoda Literacy Solutions, a non-profit organization that uses this funding to support the co-ordination of community literacy services and initiatives in B.C., including Family Literacy Week. The BC government also contributes \$500,000 to the Vancouver Sun’s annual Raise-a-Reader campaign and programs. In addition to regular yearly funding, the Province provided a one-time boost of \$1 million to Decoda Literacy Solutions in 2023.

MEDIA Release

This year's Family Literacy Week theme is "Let's have a family party!" It focuses on how literacy activities are part of planning and taking part in a family party.

"So much learning can happen while planning a family party, as a family – choosing a theme, making invitations and decorations and planning the food," says Sandra Lee, Executive Director of Decoda Literacy Solutions, BC's provincial literacy organization. "Then, further learning during the party, through the games, stories, music and traditions. The activities promote bonding, social skills, cultural connection, positive associations and great memories."

Celebrate Family Literacy Week in your community:

- [Find a local event!](#)
- Enter the province-wide online [Photo Contest](#) (#FLW2024Contest)
- Download free [Family Literacy Week activity sheets](#)

To learn more about Family Literacy Week 2024 go to decoda.ca.

About us

[Decoda Literacy Solutions](#) is BC's provincial literacy organization. We support community-based literacy programs and initiatives in over 400 communities across BC by providing resources, training and funds. Our work supports children and families, youth, adults, Indigenous and immigrant communities to help build strong individuals, strong families and strong communities.

Let's have a family party!

BACKGROUNDER

WHAT The Province of British Columbia has proclaimed [Family Literacy Week 2024](#) in BC from January 21st to January 28th. The week includes [ABC Life Literacy Canada's Family Literacy Day](#) on January 27th.

Decoda Literacy Solutions and its partner organizations across BC will celebrate throughout the week.

GOALS The goals of Family Literacy Week are to:

- Create awareness of Family Literacy.
- Share family literacy activities and resources.
- Encourage families to participate in events, activities and contests.

THEME This year's Family Literacy Week theme is "Let's have a family party!" It focuses on how literacy activities are part of planning and taking part in a family party.

ACTIVITIES Family Literacy Week 2024 activities include:

- [Family Literacy Week Photo Contest](#) for individuals or classes. Participants can take photos of family literacy activities using the "Let's have a family party!" theme, post on social media with the hashtag #FLW2024Contest (make sure your settings are public) OR email it to contest@decoda.ca to be entered to win a prize.
- [Family Literacy Week Activity Sheets](#) posted as free downloads at decoda.ca.
- [Family Literacy Week Events](#) posted at decoda.ca.
- [Read All About Lit](#) Family Literacy Week blog posts throughout Family Literacy Week.
- [Social Media Campaign](#).

WHY Families are children's first and most important teachers. Helping your child develop strong early literacy skills builds their confidence, develops vocabulary and sets them up for success.

WHEN January 21-28, 2024

WHERE Communities across British Columbia and at decoda.ca.



Let's have a family party!

Key Messages:

- **Bonding:** Family parties help strengthen relationships, fostering closer bonds between children and relatives.
- **Social skills:** Interacting with family members helps children develop social skills like communication and cooperation.
- **Learning through play:** Many party games involve learning, problem-solving and critical thinking. Games promote learning in an enjoyable setting.
- **Memories:** Children can look back on family parties with warmth.
- **Cultural connection:** During family events, children learn about their cultural heritage through stories, traditions and practices.
- **Positive associations:** Enjoyable experiences at family parties support positive feelings towards family time and gatherings.

Family Literacy in Canada

- Children spend five times as much time outside the classroom as they do in school, so parents and caregivers need the tools to support their learning.
~ *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease, 2006
- Children whose parents are involved with them in family literacy activities score 10 points higher on standardized reading tests.
~ *The Effect of Family Literacy Interventions On Children's Acquisition of Reading: From Kindergarten to Grade 3*, Conducted by Monique Sénéchal for the National Center for Family Literacy, 2006
- One year of parental education has a bigger positive impact on whether a son or daughter will attend a postsecondary institution than an extra \$50,000 in parental income.
~ Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, 2011
- A mother's reading skill is the greatest factor to affect her children's future academic success, outweighing other factors, like neighborhood and family income.
~ National Institute of Health, 2010

