



Inventory of
Programs
and
Services

impacting literacy for
young children in Calgary





Scientific research proves that supporting early childhood brain development is fundamental to helping children be the best they can be throughout their lives.

Calgary offers a broad spectrum of programs and services that support the language and pre-literacy development of zero to five year olds. The following is a comprehensive listing of such programs offered by non-profit organizations and government bodies.

Compiled by Calgary Reads – 2010

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Agency / Association	Branch / Area	Overview of Services	Literacy Specific Programs / Services	Contact	Web Address	Areas Served	Address	Audience
Alberta Child and Youth Services: Parent Link Centres	See below	Parent Link Centres are designed to connect parents to parents and resources in their community. All Parent Link Centres offer parent education programs, programs for young children to learn and play, family support services, and information and referrals to other programs in your community. Please note: programs offered change on an ongoing basis. Contact your local Parent Link for current information.	Parent Link Centres around the city offer different literacy specific programs / services. See below.	See below	http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/default.htm	Alberta		Open to all
	Online Talk Box Program - Virtual Parent Link Centre	Part of the Parent Link Centre's set of online resources, this is an online parent's guide to creating language-rich environments for 0-6 year olds: The Talk Box was put together by speech-language pathologists to share ideas about creating language rich environments for preschool and school age children.	Newsletters, activity sheets, and information sheets that share everyday tips, information about what to expect in speech and language development, and when and where to get help		http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/924.htm	Alberta	Alberta based, available online	Open to all
	Aboriginal Parent Link Centre	<i>Run in collaboration with Metis Calgary Family Services Society.</i> See individual entry below for more information.	Triple P Parenting Program (includes literacy component)	mail@mcfs.ca (403) 240-4642	http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/CalgaryAboriginal.asp	SE SE	Primary Location: Native Network - Parent Link 19 Erinwoods Drive Calgary, AB T2B 2W3 Ke Mama Nnanik Center 352 Sunvale Drive S.E. Calgary, AB T2X 2P1	Serves aboriginal parents and their children 0-6
	Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society - Parent Link Centre	The Awo Taan Healing Lodge (previously Awo Taan Native Women's Shelter) provides services and programs to women and children from all cultures who have suffered from family violence and all forms of abuse, in a uniquely Aboriginal atmosphere	"Grandmother Turtle Program" (Hand Drum, Songs, Nursery Rhymes, Movement, Native Legends, Talking Circles, etc), Parent resource library (collection of literature and videos on parenting), book lending library, parenting workshops (workshops / presentations include literacy)	josien@awotaan.org	www.awotaan.org	SW SW SE	Primary Location: #100, 1603-10 Avenue S.W. Briar Hill Children's Programs City Centre 130-7th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2P 0W4 Piitoayis Family School 1921-9 Avenue S.E. Calgary, AB T2G 0B3	Serves mothers of children 0-5 of all cultures who have suffered from abuse / family violence
	Family Pride Parent Link Centre	<i>Run in collaboration with Families Matter</i>	"LEAP Program: Literacy, Education, Attachment, Play", "In Home Parent Support Program" (weekly home visits to support families with children under 6, includes a strong language development (see over)	plc@familiesmatter.ca (403) 288-1446	http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/CalgaryFamilyPride.asp	Bowness / Montgomery / Greenwood	Primary Location: Bowness/Montgomery Day Care Centre 4615 - 85 ST NW Calgary, AB T3B 2R8	Open to all

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Alberta Child and Youth Services: Parent Link Centres (con't)	Family Pride Parent Link Centre (con't)	<i>Run in collaboration with Families Matter</i>	see previous page	see previous page	see previous page	NW	BowWest CRC 7904 - 43rd Ave NW #14-1840 Ranchlands Way NW Calgary, Alberta T3B 4P9	Open to all
						NW	Bowness Public Library 7930 Bowness Road NW Calgary, Alberta T3B 0H2	
						NW	Montgomery Community Association 5003 - 16 Ave NW Calgary, Alberta T3B ON3	
						NW	Bowness Boys and Girls Club 4527 - 77 St NW Calgary, Alberta T3B 2N6	
						NW	Ranchlands Community Association 7713 Ranchlands Way NW Calgary, AB T3G 1R4	
						NW	Bowcroft Elementary School 3940-73 ST NW Calgary, AB	
						NW	Belvedere-Parkway Elementary School 4631-85 ST NW Calgary, AB	
						NW	Terrace Road Elementary School 2103 - 46 ST NW Calgary, AB	
Hand in Hand Parent Link Centres	<i>Run in collaboration with Calgary Immigrant Women's Association and Aspen</i>	Parent Cafe, Baby Club, and Cross Cultural Parenting Workshops (all include literacy and language development components).	293-5467 ext. 22 Elepps@aspfamily.org	http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/CalgaryHandInHand.asp	Rundle, Whitehorn, Temple, Pineridge, Monterey Park and Vista Heights	Primary Location: Heart of the Northeast Community Solutions Resource Centre 2626 - 56 Street NE Calgary, Alberta T1Y 6E7	Open to all, immigrant focused	
					NE	McMan Youth, Family & Community Services #5, 6208 Rundlehorn Dr. NE Calgary, Alberta T1Y 2X1		

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						NE	Vista Heights Elementary School 2411 Vermilion ST NE Calgary, Alberta T2E 6J3	
						NE	Calgary Public Library, Village Square 2623 - 56 Street NE Calgary, Alberta T1Y 6E7	
New Family Place Parent Link Centre Outreach	Run by the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, Family & Children Services Divisions - Calgary Catholic Immigration Society offers settlement support to newly arrived families ,parenting education, family support in children/family focused practice and facilitating parents' access to supports and services, while offering developmental programs for child caregivers and promoting optimal child development.	Triple p (Positive Parenting Programs), LEAP (Literacy, Education, Attachment And Parenting), Toy/ Book Lending Library (Books are available in 50 languages)	rbray@ccis-calgary.ab.ca 403.266.6686	www.ccis-calgary.ab.ca	SW	Primary Location: Cross Cultural Children's Centre 120 - 17th Ave SW Calgary, AB	Open to all families in need. Immigrant focused	
					NE	Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre 23 McDougall Court NE Calgary, AB		
					NE	Panda 7 Child Care Centre 116 Falsby Way NE Calgary, AB		
					NE	Community and Neighbourhood Services Centre Region, Bridgeland Office 736 McDougall Court NE Calgary, AB		
North Central Family Connections Parent Link Centre	As part of a network of Parent Link Centres funded by Alberta Children's Services, parent link centres provide universal programs (free of charge) to meet the needs of all types of parents and caregivers. The centres work in partnerships with parents, childcare programs, schools and other key community stakeholders	Parent Child Mother Goose	parentlink@sshaw.ca 403) 275-6668	http://www.wconnectyou.ca/programs/pl_family_children.htm	NW	Primary Location: Huntington Hills Community Association 520 78 Ave NW Calgary, Alberta T2K 0S2	Open to all	
					NW	Agape' Language Centre 16 Bermuda Centre Calgary, Alberta T2K 0S2		
					North	North Minister United Church 32 Avenue Centre Street Calgary, Alberta T2K 0S2		

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Alberta Child and Youth Services: Parent Link Centres (con't)	Parent - Link Corridor - YWCA	The YWCA Parent Link Corridor is a three-way partnership among the YWCA of Calgary, Calgary Urban Project Society, and Calgary Family Services. The YWCA Parent Link Corridor provides direct parenting support for these families with counselling, referral and on-site supports.	Parent Child Mother Goose, Ready to Read Mothergoose program (oral story telling, circle time, songs, etc)	parentlink@ywcaofcalgary.com 403 232 1582	http://www.parentlinkalberta.ca/publish/CalgaryYWC.A.asp	SE	Primary Location: YWCA of Calgary 320 - 5th Ave. SE Calgary, AB T2G 0E5	Open to all, immigrant focused
						SE / downtown	CUPS Health & Education Centres Community Health Centre - Family Resource Centre 128 - 7 Ave S.E. Calgary, AB T2G 0H5	
						SW / downtown	CUPS One World Child Development Centre 622 - 11 Ave.SW Calgary, AB T2R	
						SE / downtown	Calgary Family Services Inner City Resource Centre 922 - 9 Ave. S.E. Calgary AB T2G 0S4	
						SE / downtown	YWCA Sheriff King Home 2003 - 16 St. SE Calgary, AB T2P 1H9	
Alberta Health Services	Public Health Nursing	Public Health Drop In sessions and Well Child visits (immunizations) sessions for new parents. A public health nurse is available to provide answers, referrals, resources and support to all parents	Public health nurses encourage early childhood literacy and language development as part of their overall child development discussions with parents.	1-866-408-5465	http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services.asp?pid=service&rid=1031052	Alberta	Multiple Calgary locations	Open to all
	Birth and Babies Perinatal Education Program	Birth and Babies offers over 30 courses for expectant and new parents, as well as grandparents	Programs with literacy components include: baby sign language, prenatal classes (a strong focus on attachment developed through speaking and reading to your child), "Baby and You" classes (includes a session with a children's librarian)	403 781 1451	www.birthandbabies.com	Alberta	Multiple Calgary locations	Open to all expecting parents and parents of infants and toddlers
Aspen Family and Community Network Society		Provides resources and supports through referrals to appropriate community agencies. Collaborating with the Hand and Hand Parent Link Centre, Aspen offers supports for parents with children ages 0 to six.	Parent Cafe, Baby Club, and Cross Cultural Parenting Workshops (all include literacy and language development components).	(403) 219-3477	www.aspenfamily.org	Calgary	Unit 9, 2115- 27 Ave NE Calgary, AB T2E 7E4	Open to all

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Bowness / Montgomery Early Literacy Initiative		BMEI is a community-based initiative designed to impact school readiness / success, employability, and income through improvement of early literacy practices. The project works at multiple levels on individual, organizational and community capacity building.	"Mother Goose on the Loose", "Parent Child Mother Goose", "Rhymes that Bind" . Resources include: family literacy newsletters	earlyliteracy@calgaryfamily.org 403.717.3975		Bowness, Montgomery and Greenwood Village		Serves families in specified communities
BowWest Community Support Services Society		Community Resource Centres (CRCs) are one-stop shops for resources and support that connect you to community services, organizations and groups.	Parent Child Mother Goose	403-216-5348 www.bowwest.com		NW		Serves families in specified communities
Calgary Family Services - In-Sync Program		A free, play-based, multi-sensory program aimed at building, enhancing, and strengthening the parent-child relationship. Parent(s) and their child (ages 0-6) engage in planned, playful, and multi-sensory activities that help foster healthy development & attachment in young children. A free, self referred program, delivered within the family's home & / or agency office.	Program encourages reading and speaking to your child as an effective way to develop healthy attachments between parent and child.	403-269-9888	http://www.calgaryfamily.org/brochures/InSync-Web.pdf	Calgary	200 - 1000 8th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB · T2P 3M7	Open to all
Calgary Immigrant Aid Society / Immigrant Services Calgary		One of Calgary's most comprehensive immigrant serving agencies, our focus is on the individual and families first, providing a sense of community and connection.	"Cross-Cultural Parent-Child Literacy Program" (A community-based program that provides activities to promote literacy and and their children age 3-5 years on a weekly basis throughout the school year. This family literacy program provides parent-child activities, parent workshops and early childhood educational activities and special off-site events for immigrant and refugee families with preschool children.)	info@immigrantservicescalgary.ca (403) 265-1120	www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca	communities surrounding O.S. Geiger School, Colonel J. Fred Scott School and Mosaic Centre.	#1200, 910 - 7th Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 3N8	Serves immigrant children 3-5 and their parents

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Calgary Immigrant Women's Association		Calgary Immigrant Women's Ass'n (CIWA) was established in 1982 as a non-profit organization to address the needs and concerns of immigrant and refugee women, youth, children and families. CIWA is the only immigrant serving agency in Calgary offering all-female programs and services. CIWA's Mission, Vision and Values are designed to empower women for the benefit of their entire family and the community.	"Pebbles in the Sand: ESL Literacy for Women & Children" (Family literacy curriculum and activities for immigrant women and children. Each 10 week session includes good quality children's books, craft and writing activities, numeracy lessons, and songs for both adults and children.). Hand in Hand Parent link Centre (see above).	reception@ciwa-online.com (403)263-4414	www.ciwa-online.com	Forest Lawn, Marlborough, Rundle, Wild Wood, Beltline, Albert Park and the Downtown core.	#200, 138 - 4th Avenue SE Calgary, Alberta T2G 4Z6	Serves multi-barriered immigrant and refugee women and their children aged 0-6 years old.
CanLearn / Calgary Learning Centre		The CanLearn Centre creates, uses and shares knowledge to remove learning barriers and support life long learning	"Share the Magic" (collects donated books to read to and then give to preschool children), "Magic Carpet Ride"	(403) 686-9300	http://www.calgarylearningcentre.com/	Falconridge, Martindale, Taradale, Thorn-cliffe, Huntington Hills, Greater Forest Lawn.	3930 20 Street SW Calgary Alberta T2T 4Z9	Serves families with special needs
Calgary Public Library		Vision: A world of information and ideas within reach of every Calgarian	<i>For babies aged 6-23 months, with parent / caregiver: "Baby Storytime"</i> , 3-week series at most library locations, "Baby Rhyme Time" , 6-week series at select library locations, "Papa Time" , 3-week series at select library locations for babies with dad, grandpa or male caregiver, "Parent Child Mother Goose" 8 or 10-week series at most library locations, <i>For children 2-5 years old with parent / caregiver: "Family Reading Circle"</i> , an interactive 6-week series at select library locations, "Toddler, Preschool or Family Storytime" : 6-week storytime series. <i>Parent education opportunities: "Every Child Ready to Read Workshops"</i> (Shares 6 early literacy skills that can be practiced at home.)	dear.library@calgarypubliclibrary.com. 403-260-2600	http://calgarypubliclibrary.com/	Calgary	Multiple Calgary locations	Open to all

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Centre for Family Literacy		The Centre for Family Literacy provides resources as well as training, information and advocacy across Alberta	Resources including Family Literacy Tip Sheets and a literacy newsletter online.	(780) 421-7323	http://famlit.ca/programs_and_projects/index.html	Alberta	Edmonton based, available online	Serves parents and professionals who support children 0-5
Centre for Newcomers		The Centre provides services in settlement, employment and English as a Second Language for newcomers to Canada.	Colour Our World (settlement service for newly arrived immigrant and refugee children from 2-12 years of age. Helps newcomer children adjust to life and school in Canada. Includes rich language development component)	403-569-3325	www.centrefornewcomers.ca	Calgary	#125 920 36 Street NE Calgary, AB T2A 6L8	Serves new immigrant children aged 2-12 years
Connections Counseling and Consulting Foundation		Purpose: to provide family support to parents with an intellectual disability and their children, & individual counseling to persons with an intellectual disability	Parent Child Mother Goose, in home support to teach parenting skills (includes literacy and language development component), parenting workshops including parent-child bonding	connect@calcna.ab.ca (403) 209-1100	http://www.connectionsconsulting.ab.ca	Calgary	Sunalta Professional Building 203-1603 10 Ave SW Calgary AB T3C 0J7	Serves parents with intellectual disabilities and their children 0-5
Families Matter		Families Matter turns life's journeys into positive experiences that strengthen families and their communities. Opportunities to learn and practice new skills, tap into resources, and develop new ideas, and get connected with community.	"LEAP Program: Literacy, Education, Attachment, Play", "In Home Parent Support Program" (weekly home visits to support families with children under 6, includes a strong language development component), "Papa Bears; Dad and Child Mother Goose", Parenting Resource Centres (welcoming places for parent and child to come together and learn, includes literacy and language development component)	403.205.5187	http://www.familiesmatter.ca/	Calgary	Suite 325, 2116 - 27th Avenue NE Calgary, Alberta T2E 7A6	Open to all

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Family / Community Resource Centres	Millican Ogden Community Association (MOCA) Family Resource Centre	Initiated by a group of community residents who identified a need for a place where all community residents could connect and support one another	"Parent Child Mother Goose", "Books for Babies" "Jump Start Sesions" (information sessions for parents who received Books for Babies book bags). "Magic Carpet Ride", book exchange and donations.	(403) 720-6761	http://www.moca-frc.org/	Ogden	20A Street Southeast Calgary, AB T2C 0R5	Open to parents in specified communities
	North of McKnight Community Resource Centre	Provides supports and services to families living in the six communities North of McKnight Boulevard. In certain cases, offers space for programs run by third parties	A changing variety of parenting and child oriented programs, including Magic Carpet Ride.	403 293-0424	www.northofmcknightcra.ca	Six communities North of McKnight Blvd.	95 Falshire Drive NE, T3J 1P7	Open to parents in specified communities
	West Central Community and Family Resource Centre	Serving 19 communities in southwest Calgary, the West Central Community and Family Resource Centre is located at 3507A - 17 Avenue S.W. and is open to all parents, children and youths. The Family and Community Resource Centre has a "one-stop-shopping" approach to providing a wide variety of free services to children and families in need of some assistance.	"Nobody's Perfect" and "Common Sense" parenting programs - both include language development and literacy components. "Mother Goose Program",	westcentralcra@closetohome.com (403) 543-0555	http://members.shaw.ca/westcentralcra/resources.html	19 SW communities	3507A - 17 Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T3E 0B6	Open to all
Further Education Society of Alberta	Calgary Community Family Literacy Program	Mandate: to pave the way for lifelong learning opportunities for every person in Canada. Calgary community family literacy program offers family literacy and parenting programs in partnership with 28 community agencies	"Books for Babies" ,"Homespun" (a program for parents to learn more about reading, writing and interacting with their children), "Parent Child Mother Goose" , "LAPS: Literacy and Parenting Skills" ; "ESL LAPS: English as a Second Language Literacy and Parenting Skills" , "ALAPS: Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills"	jspicer@furthered.ca (403) 250-5034	http://www.nald.ca/fesa/	Calgary	#52 – 3033 34th Avenue Northeast Calgary, Alberta T1Y 6X2	Open to all

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Further Education Society of Alberta (continued)	Parents and Children Together (PACT)	Parents and Children Together (PACT) knows that in order to excel, families with young children need support, encouragement and information.	"Terrific Toddlers" (Using the program developed by "Three Cheers for the Early Years", this 5 week course includes a parent education / discussion group that offers information, support and encouragement; and a children's play program).	403-241-8544 P_A_C_T@hotmail.com	http://www.pact.9f.com/	Calgary	Calgary	Open to all
Heartland Agency and Educational Services		Provides programs that encourage child development, advance children's emotional, physical and intellectual health, increase children's safety, and link families with their communities for more positive family outcomes	Early Childhood Program (play is the natural method of learning for children. A musician, a puppeteer, and a language and literacy specialist enrich this program)	(403) 541-0277	http://www.heartlandagency.org/	Calgary	Calgary	Open to 3&4 year olds
	Even Start	Even Start Program - Provides support to at risk children including a wide variety of educational, therapeutic, transportation, and nutritional supports. EvenStart programs run in accredited child care sites approved by the Alberta Association for the Accreditation of Early Learning and Care Services.	The Even Start program is offered to at risk 3-5 year olds in order to change their social and behavioral patterns by assisting with the development of resiliency strategies, with the closing of developmental lags, and by teaching skills that will enhance their success in school and community. Has a strong literacy and language development component.	evenstart@shaw.ca (403) 874-5612	http://www.evenstartfoundation.org/	Calgary	c/o St. Stephen's Memorial Hall 1121 - 14th Avenue S.W. Calgary AB T2R 0P3	Serves at risk 3-5 year olds in preschool settings
KARA PROGRAM (Calgary Catholic School Board)		a multi-dimensional program that helps pregnant and parenting students (male & female) to remain in school while addressing the unique challenges of pregnant and parenting adolescents	"Parent Child Mother Goose", book donations, parenting courses	http://karaprogram.com/contact/	cssd.ab.ca – Programs	Calgary		Serves pregnant and parenting teens

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Learning Links Resource Centre		LearningLinks contains the combined resource collections of Literacy Alberta and the Calgary Learning Centre. This new partnership has created a library with over 14,000 resources for people living and working with literacy and learning difficulties. LearningLinks also partners with the University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources.	"Travelling Trunks" (collections of materials including books, journals, reports, kits, CDs, videos and DVDs used to support teaching, learning, marketing, and professional development activities. Travelling Trunks and Totes are loaned out for a period of four weeks. Samples of current trunks include: family literacy, aboriginal literacy, ESL literacy)	403-249-4606	http://www.learninglinkslibrary.ca .	Alberta		Open to all
Metis Calgary Family Services Society		Promoting the healthy development of Native Children and Families through a balanced, holistic spectrum of services.	"ALAPS: Aboriginal Literacy and Parenting Skills", "Positive Indian parenting", "Triple P Parenting Program", "Bond with Baby Program"	403 240-4642	http://www.mcfss.ca/	Calgary	352 Sunvale Drive SE, Calgary AB	Serves aboriginal parents and their children 0-6