

BEST BEGINNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 2023

**Best Beginning
In-Person Groups**

**Tuesdays 1-2:30pm
Families Matter Centre
#101, 239 Midpark Way SE**

**Wednesdays 1-2:30pm
Genesis Centre
7555 Falconridge Blvd NE**

THEME OF THE MONTH -TRANSPORTATION

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Read books about cars and transportation
- Encourage early literacy and use of Calgary Public Library

ACTIVITIES AT IN-PERSON GROUPS

ARTS & CRAFTS

- Fall tree craft
- Alphabet train
- Paper airplanes
- Kids driver's license

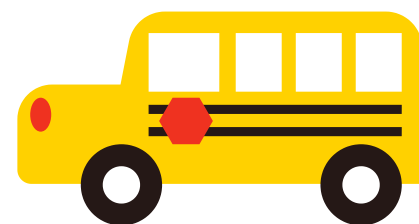
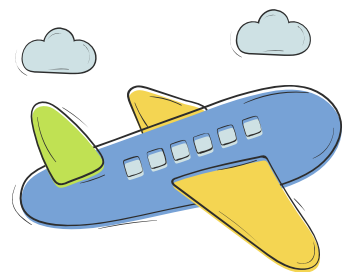
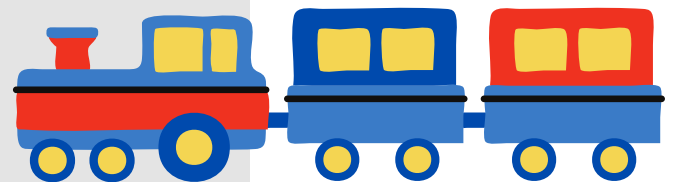
CIRCLE TIME

Books Available at the Calgary Public Library

- *Cars and Trucks and Things That Go* by Richard Scarry
- *I Love Trucks!* by Philemon Sturges
- *I Stink!* by Jim McMullan and Kate McMullan

CALENDAR

- Sept 4 Labour Day
- Sept 23 First Day of Fall
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth
and Reconciliation



ENCOURAGING EARLY LITERACY

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read or write. There are five practices that will help your child develop their literacy skills.



TALK

- Children learn about language by listening to parents and caregivers talk and by joining the conversation.
- Use the language you know best.

SING

- The rhythm in music allows a young child to hear and break words into syllables or "chunks".
- Music is soothing and can help calm both the child and parent.

READ

- Read together!!
- Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn to read.

WRITE

- Reading and writing go together. Both are important to communicate information.
- Play rhyming finger games with your toddler! That will help your child develop fine motor skills which your child will use later when learning writing.

PLAY

- Pretend and dramatic play helps your child practise putting thoughts into words.



Tips to Encourage a Reader

- Share books with your baby from birth! Sturdy board books are best for them to play with.
- Show your child how books work and teach your child to turn the pages.
- Sing together. Your child loves hearing your voice.
- Identify shapes around you to help your child begin to recognize shapes that are parts of letters.
- Making reading fun. Cuddle up together at bedtime or read for a few moments during play time - choose a time when your child is in the mood.
- Talk about what you see in books. Look at the pictures and let your child tell you what is happening.
- Talk about your day. Tell your child what you are doing and talk about what your child is doing.
- Point out print all around you. Show your child text in books, signs, cereal boxes...Show your child how print helps get things done.

MY FIRST BOOKSHELF

In partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

How it Works

Every month, the library send one age-appropriate book to your family's house by mail. Each book is personalized with your child's name and is selected by experts to meet your child's development needs.

Every child within a family who falls within the birth to five age group may participate and receive their own book each month. There is no limit on how many children can participate per family.

Your child will graduate from the program once they turn five years old and will no longer receive monthly books.



How to Register

If you have children from birth to age five and are interested in participating in this program, please register below or speak with staff at your local Library. There is limited space in this program. A staff member will contact you when your registration is processed.

Library memberships are free for every member of your household. A Library membership is not required to register for My First Bookshelf. You can sign up online and use your membership to borrow books, access free programs, use digital resources, and more.

Register for My First Bookshelf at:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/ca/affiliate/ABCALGARYLIBRARY>