



MAKING THE CASE™

LITERACY BEGINS AT HOME

- School readiness in young children is influenced by their parents' level of education. The higher the level of the parents' education, the more likely the child will succeed in school. (*National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth; HRDC Bulletin 1997*).
- Children raised in literate households are likely to enter grade one with several thousand hours of one to one pre-reading experience behind them.
- Research shows children have a better chance of becoming fully literate adults if reading is encouraged in the home.
- Many studies have shown that improving parents' skills directly and positively affects the language development of children (*Literacy Skills for the Knowledge Society, IALS 1997, page 62*).
- Differences in young children's development are largely attributable to differences in socialization, with heredity playing a small role (*Literacy Skills for the Knowledge Society, IALS 1997 page 62*).
- Quality of life for families, including income levels and employment status, is directly related to the literacy levels of parents (*IALS 1995/97*).
- Without crucial parental support, the cycle of under-education continues in families from generation to generation. With support from family literacy programs, children who might otherwise have been educationally and developmentally behind their peers entered school on par with their peers (*U.S. National Center for Family Literacy, Family Literacy and Welfare Reform*).
- The National Center for Family Literacy's long-term research with 2,000 families that attended family literacy programs shows that literacy intervention reduced participants' full dependence on public assistance from 67% to 11%.
- Connections between parents' levels of educational attainment and children's academic scores have been established in a number of studies. The connections have also been made between socio-economic status, education and literacy levels of parents and of the children of those parents (*Literacy Skills for the Knowledge Society, IALS 1997 pp. 30-31*).

**Literacy BC provides the following
services and support to
Family Literacy development in BC:**

- ❑ **training for existing and new family literacy program practitioners**
- ❑ **program development consultation**
- ❑ **a provincial information and resource centre available on line and via the 1-800 number**
- ❑ **a network for practitioners, volunteers and agencies involved in family literacy**
- ❑ **public awareness and leadership in promoting family literacy**