

FYI:
Current Literacy Information & Resources
Fall 2008

For more information or to obtain these resources, contact Literacy BC's Provincial Literacy Resource Centre at library@literacy.bc.ca or 1-888-READ-234 (1-888-732-3234) in BC or 604-684-0624 ext. 105.

FYI highlights information and resources that may be of interest to practitioners, researchers, policy makers and administrators in the literacy field in British Columbia. *FYI* is compiled by library staff based on the reports and journals we receive at the library, email notices, Web sites and other current awareness services. It is sent out quarterly with Literacy BC's E-Bulletin and posted on the Literacy BC Web site under "Publications" at www.literacy.bc.ca. Thank you for forwarding to us information you would like to see in the next FYI.

We are currently evaluating the usefulness of this document to the field and need your feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete a **short survey and let us know what you think**

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Aboriginal Literacy

Free Book Campaign for Aboriginal Families

The BC Association of Aboriginal Family Centres (BCAAFC) recently announced their new **FREE BOOK** campaign. The BCAAFC will mail relevant and meaningful books out each month to registered Aboriginal Family Literacy participants across the province. For more information and to register for this amazing opportunity, contact BCAAFC at <http://www.bcaafc.com/>



Staying in School Comic Book

Level Up is the latest comic book from The Healthy Aboriginal network. It is about Terry, a kid who is contemplating dropping out of school. But before he gets a chance, he's asked to spend some time with his cousin Dave, a successful game developer in the city. For ordering information and pricing, see <http://www.thehealthyaboriginal.net>

Assessing & Monitoring Learners

A New Toolkit to Assess Beginning Readers & Writers

How do you assess beginning readers and writers? The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES) has funded a two-year project to address this need. The toolkit will contain a range of tools and manipulatives to assess the adult's literacy practices, print conventions and concepts, phonemic awareness, sight word recognition, comprehension, phonics knowledge, and writing. The Centre for Education (CEW) is sponsoring this project in partnership with the Centre for Family Literacy, Norquest College, Vancouver Community College, the Toronto Public Library, and Literacy Nova Scotia. For more information, contact Pat Campbell at 780-448-7323 or at pat@grassrootsbooks.net

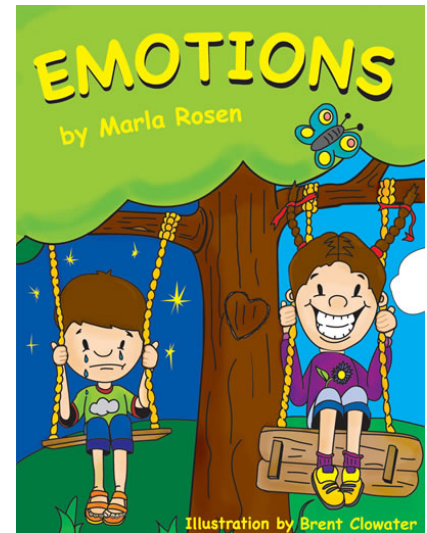
Children

Mental Health Literacy for Children

Local author, Marla Rosen, has produced a book, CD, puppet show and concert on children's emotional health. She is looking for additional opportunities to present her program to children and teachers. Borrow the book and CD, *Emotions*, from the Resource Centre, or visit <http://www.emotionsbook.com> to purchase the book and arrange a workshop.

Watching Movies with Subtitles Supports Literacy

Researchers from the University of Canterbury's School of Literacies and Arts in Education trialed a US-based reading programme called Audio Visual Achievement in Literacy, Language and Learning (AVAILLL). It is based on the use of movie subtitles to support literacy activities. They found that struggling readers who took part in the programme improved their reading age by 1.2 years in just six weeks. For more information, read the University's July 18, 2008 press release at <http://www.comsdev.canterbury.ac.nz/news/2008/080718b.shtml>



Consumer Information

Plain Language Materials for Consumers

Be Informed About...

- Identity Theft: Watch Out!
- Landlords and Tenants: Home Sweet Rented Home
- Making a Complaint: It's Your Right to Complain
- Internet Safety: Safety Net
- Debt: Take Charge of your Debt

These print and audio-visual materials from the Consumer Measures Committee can be downloaded at <http://cmcweb.ca/epic/site/cmc-cmc.nsf/en/fe00135e.html> or you can order free copies at consumer.information@ic.gc.ca

Elections

Exercise Your Right to Vote

To help literacy students understand and participate in federal, municipal and provincial elections, Literacy BC has put together a list of informative resources covering topics ranging from voting to how Canada's government works. View the list at <http://www2.literacy.bc.ca/elections.htm>

Environment

Making Sense of Climate Change

The September 2008 issue of *The Change Agent: An Adult Education Newspaper for Social Justice* is about climate change. This useful newsletter from the New England Literacy Resource Centre has classroom materials for adult learners. The newsletter, previously free online, is now offered either in print or online for a fee of \$0 - \$20 on a sliding scale. <http://nelrc.org/changeagent/toc.htm> It is also available for loan from the Resource Centre.

ESL

Listening to, Um, Like, Real People Talk

ELLLO – English Language Listening Lab Online – is a free, online listening resource of over 1,000 listening activities designed especially for ESL and EFL students and teachers. It is the work of an English teacher based in Japan.

Most listening activities include images, an interactive quiz and transcripts of the audio and downloadable MP3. Find them at <http://www.elllo.org/english/home.htm>

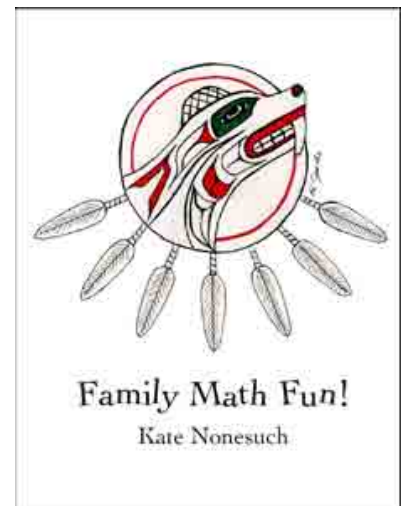
Understanding the Academic Trajectories of ESL Students

An October 2, 2008 *Lessons in Learning* report from the Canadian Council on Learning documents how ESL students progress academically, with a particular focus on BC research. Read the report at <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20081002ESLStudents?Language=EN>

Family Numeracy

Family Math Fun!

Announcing a new resource: a manual of family numeracy activities, ready to use in early literacy programs, day care centres, primary grades and Adult Basic Education/Literacy programs. Patterns, recipes, and handouts all included (109 pages). Download your free copy of this resource by BC author, Kate Nonesuch, at <http://www.nald.ca/library/learning/familymath/cover.htm> or borrow the hard copy from the Resource Centre. For more information, contact Kate.Nonesuch@viu.ca



Health Literacy

See also *Children – Mental health literacy for children*

Healthy Pregnancy

The Sensible Guide to a Healthy Pregnancy has information about how to ensure a healthy pregnancy. It also contains a handy ten-month pregnancy calendar with interesting facts, useful information and tips on pregnancy-related topics. Download the guide from <http://www.healthycanadians.ca/hp-gs/pdf/hpguide-eng.pdf> or order a print copy of this guide by calling 1 800 O Canada, (1 800 622-6232).

For a comprehensive book that was designed specifically for women with low incomes, don't forget about *Baby Basics* (available for sale from Grassroots Press, or borrow from the Resource Centre).

Learning Cities

Canadian Council on Learning Highlights Learning Communities

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) reports that there are estimated to be more than 300 “learning communities” around the world, the majority of them in Europe and Australia. Many Canadian cities and regions from coast to coast – including Victoria and Vancouver – have either started a learning community initiative or are seriously considering the idea. Find out more about learning communities, and how CCL has been working with Vancouver to use the Composite Learning Index to measure the city’s progress in achieving its goals and objectives as a learning community. Visit <http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/CLI/LearningCommunities.htm>

Poetry

Random Acts of Poetry

For one week, 25 acclaimed poets across Canada commit *Random Acts of Poetry*. This project of the Victoria READ Society sees 25 acclaimed poets reading poems to strangers on buses and subways, in donut shops and cafes, police stations, grocery stores, shelters, curling rinks, on city streets and country lanes. Poets will also read their poems in ESL and Adult Literacy classes. As well, they will present poetry in middle school classes, and give the students a book of poetry written by middle school students, *We Can Say This*. For more information about this international project, see <http://national-random-acts-of-poetry.blogspot.com/>

Commuters Enjoy Poet-in-Residence

A poet in residence has been appointed to write original poetry on train walls for the Glasgow travel network. The poet, John Rice, will also run writing workshops in local schools and libraries. The Scottish Arts Council hopes to mimic the success of London’s Poems on the Underground, which have run since 1986. This article is from the Glasgow Herald, 15 August 2008 at <http://www.theherald.co.uk>

Policy

Special Bulletin: Reading the Reports from *Literacies*

Literacies presents a critique of two recent reports that could inform public policy decisions in Canada: *Learning Literacy in Canada* and *Reading the Future*. The intention of the bulletin is to spark a dialogue within the literacy

community on the reports, their meaning, and their implications for practice. Read the bulletin at http://www.literacyjournal.ca/literacies/Bulletins/reading_the_reports.pdf

In addition, you can listen to one of the authors of this bulletin, Dr Nancy Jackson, speak about literacy statistics in a CBC interview. The AlphaPlus blog highlights the issue and links to relevant sites at <http://blog.alphaplus.ca/page/5/>

Reading

Think Alouds Help Reading Comprehension

Think Alouds can be used as a reading strategy to model thinking processes used during reading. This Web site from Adlit.org in the US links to useful text and online video resources demonstrating the Think Aloud technique. Learn more at <http://www.adlit.org/strategies/22735>

Research

A Guide to Research in Practice

Mary Norton's *A Travellers' Guide to Literacy Research in Practice* (2008) was written to help literacy practitioners conduct research related to their practice. It is available from the Learning Centre Literacy Association in Edmonton. Read the full-text version online at <http://www.nald.ca/library/research/traveler/cover.htm>, or borrow the hard copy from the Resource Centre. We have a small supply of bound copies to distribute free of charge in BC. If you would like one mailed to you, please email library@literacy.bc.ca

Web Sites

Compendium of Web Sites Support Literacy Learning

Laubach Literacy Ontario has developed a *Compendium of Websites* for people who want to improve their reading, writing, math and essential skills, and for the tutors, trainers and others who work with them. An advisory committee reviewed



Compendium

of Websites*

A **compendium** (com 'pen-di-um) is a concise, comprehensive collection of information important to a group of people.



the content. Use the Compendium at <http://www.laubach-on.ca/Trainingpost/compendium/index.html>