

Infancy and early childhood is the first and most critical phase of human growth. A child's earliest experiences shape brain development.³

reach every student



Bringing Parents and Children Together to Learn

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres (PFLCs) serve families with young children from babies up to age six. The program is accessible to all families in the community and provides an inclusive environment where each child is unique and develops within the context of his or her family.

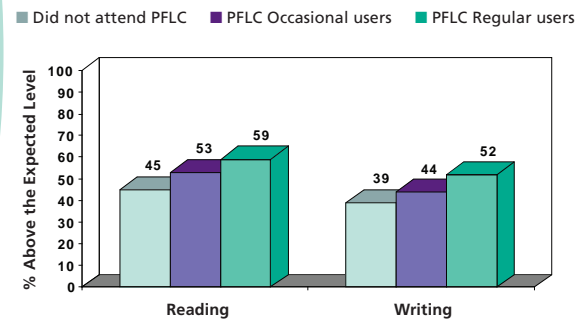
The centres have a number of key goals including:

- Providing optimal child development through positive parent-child interaction.
- Offering a family literacy program that develops early literacy and numeracy skills which provide the foundation for ongoing learning.
- Increasing parents' knowledge, involvement and comfort level with schools.
- Helping children transition more easily to school by allowing centre staff and teachers to work together.
- Early identification of children with special needs.

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres: Making a Difference

Research conducted by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) in 2008-09 shows that after almost three years of schooling (JK, SK, and Grade 1), students who attended a PFLC, especially the regular participants, continue to demonstrate a clear advantage over their school peers.¹

Grade 1, Term 2 Report Card
Reading and Writing (2008-09) TDSB



The TDSB study also found that the "initial gains the PFLC students had made could be retained in later school years not only in terms of early child development but also in other related areas such as academic performance (e.g., literacy level), school engagement (e.g., lower absenteeism), and positive schooling experience as a result of better learning attitudes and peer relationships."²

Find a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre Near You

Every Parenting and Family Literacy Centre is free, accessible, and requires no pre-registration.

To learn more and find a Parenting and Family Literacy Centre near you, please visit our web site at:

www.ontario.ca/eduparents

Or call 1-800-387-5514.

"In our children, the PFLC has fuelled a sense of excitement and desire to learn... that will pay dividends throughout their entire academic careers and life."

Parent – Sault St. Marie

"Parenting and Family Literacy Centres have become indispensable to the work our board is doing in parental engagement and outreach."

Superintendent – Hamilton

Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

Children succeed better in school and in life when parents get involved with their education and learning.

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres bring parents/caregivers and children together to learn.



³ McCain, M.N., Mustard, J.F. and Shanker, S. *Early years study 2: Putting science into action*. Toronto, ON: The Council for Early Childhood Development, 2007.

¹ Yau, Maria Y.M. *Parenting and Family Literacy Centres: Making a Difference Beyond Early School Readiness*. Toronto, ON: Research & Information Services, TDSB, 2009.

² *ibid.*

Family-centred activities and services

Centres operate in elementary schools and are run by trained Early Childhood Educators who are school staff. Children and parents/caregivers attend together. Parents/caregivers are fully involved in every activity, which includes them in their children's learning, builds confidence in their parenting skills and introduces them to the school system.

Reading together



Reading to a child fosters a lifelong love of reading. Every day at the centre, parents read to their children, strengthening their relationship and developing early literacy skills.

Music and story time



Coming together to sing songs and tell stories is a key component of the day. Through interactive songs, chants, nursery rhymes and finger plays, children learn to speak, retell, reflect and recall.

Learning through play



Children and parents develop a love of learning in the centres' stimulating environment. Using inexpensive materials readily available at home, the centres teach play-based problem solving activities in a culturally inclusive environment.

Lending library



Each centre has a multilingual and multicultural book library. Parents can borrow books written in their first language to read to their children at home. The libraries also include resources on parenting skills and child development for parents to use.

Helping the whole family



Parenting and Family Literacy Centres support early learning and development and lay the foundation for success in school. As well, parents benefit by being actively engaged with their child's learning.

Connecting to the Community



Parenting and Family Literacy Centres provide links to community resources. This enables parents to get the help they need not just for their child, but for the entire family; for example, special needs referrals, health issues, housing, legal aid and much more.

"Our Parenting and Family Literacy Centre has created the feeling that our school is truly the "hub of the community".

Principal – Toronto