

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Family Literacy Day 2026 is on **January 27, 2026**. This year's theme is "Make mealtime family learning time", and focuses on turning everyday kitchen activities like cooking and grocery shopping into learning opportunities. Celebrated across Canada, the day encourages families, schools, and libraries to engage in literacy activities, with events and resources for creative mealtime learning. This special day promotes the value of families reading and learning together.

Family Literacy Day focuses on the powerful role of parents and families in helping their children succeed in school. Literacy is the key that opens the door to success for all students. The parent/child relationship is the first and most important influence on literacy learning and families are encouraged to read in their first language.

Family literacy can include telling a story or reading a book at bedtime. Taking time to read to a child is one of the most important things a parent can do to assist a child in becoming a lifelong reader. Playing word games, singing songs, drawing pictures, and writing letters, notes and shopping lists are all ways families can incorporate literacy into their daily lives.

The positive impacts of family literacy programming are greater than interventions including giving homework to children or reducing class size. Moreover, children from disadvantaged backgrounds can benefit from family literacy programming at least to the same extent as children from other backgrounds. Further, family literacy programming enhances children's social and emotional development and parents' confidence as parents. (National Adult Literacy Agency (Ireland), 2018)

In the "Joy of the Gospel" (*Evangelii Gaudium*) Pope Francis emphasized that the family is the "**domestic church**" and the foundational place for education and literacy, where the **joy of faith** is first encountered and passed on through a life of love and witness. Councils are also encouraged to continue with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation's Device Free Campaign as a further step to improving literacy and family cohesion. More info can be found at <https://wucwo.org/en/device-freefamilymeal-campaign/>

For more information on Family Literacy Day visit ABC Life Literacy Canada's website at <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/programs/family-literacy-day/>

Sue Lubowitz
Service Chairperson
Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada