



explore, experience, enjoy

Wainwright Public Library  
921-3<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Wainwright, AB T9W 1C5

# Storytime

Ages 3-5

Storytime is an hour filled with stories, rhymes, songs, crafts and fun for 3-5 year olds. The program helps build the early literacy, listening and group participation skills required for successful school entry. A different theme each week provides an introduction to a variety of picture books. Children attend the program “on their own” and begin taking the important first steps of independence. This program requires pre-registration.

## Goal

Storytime will provide fun and rich experiences that build a love of books, libraries and reading that will stay with children for a lifetime. Storytime will also provide engaging activities that build children’s school readiness skills.

## Objectives

Storytime will help children:

- learn to be attentive and follow direction.
- learn to develop independence in a comfortable setting.
- learn to be considerate of others by providing a structured introduction to group interaction.
- develop a desire to learn to read by fostering the development of pre-reading skills.
- develop a love of stories and good books.
- develop school readiness skills.

## Early Literacy Skills

Early Literacy is what a child knows about reading and writing before they can actually read and write. These are six important pre-reading skills to develop.

- Print Motivation: A child’s interest in and enjoyment of books.
- Print Awareness: Noticing that print is everywhere, knowing how to handle a book, noticing how we follow words on a page.
- Phonological Awareness: Being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds in words.
- Letter Knowledge: Knowing that letters are different than one another and have different shapes and different sounds.
- Vocabulary: Knowing the names of things.
- Narrative Skills: The ability to describe things and events and to tell a story.

## **School Readiness Skills**

School readiness means that a child is ready to enter a social environment that is primarily focused on education. Children should have the:

- Ability to follow structured daily routines.
- Ability to work independently with supervision.
- Ability to listen and pay attention to what someone else is saying.
- Ability to get along with and cooperate with other children.
- Ability to play with other children.
- Ability to follow simple rules.
- Ability to work with puzzles, scissors, coloring, paints, etc.
- Ability to write their own name or to acquire the skill with instruction.
- Ability to count or acquire the skill with instruction.
- Ability to recite the alphabet (or quickly learn with instruction).
- Ability to identify both shapes and colors.
- Ability to identify sound units in words and to recognize rhyme.

## **Implementation**

- Storytime runs Monday mornings (10am – 11am) from September through May and is held downstairs in the children's library.
- Each child that attends the program requires a library membership. It can be a juvenile membership for the individual child or a family membership shared with the entire family.
- Children are encouraged to take home books and other library materials to extend the Storytime experience.
- Parents are encouraged to read to their children regularly to reinforce the early literacy skills learned during Storytime.