

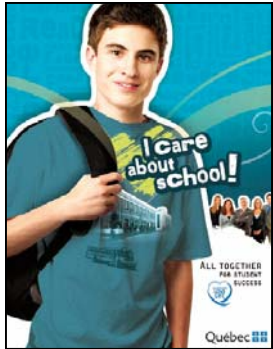
## WHAT'S INSIDE

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“...the literacy resource for school board personnel and adult education teachers”

## The Family Literacy Day Issue!

**January 27th is Family Literacy Day.** Created by ABC CAN-ADA Literacy Foundation in 1999, Family Literacy Day (FLD) is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Every year, families and communities across Canada celebrate this special day at literacy-themed events coordinated by literacy organizations, schools and libraries.



*What can we do in our adult education centres? Plenty!*

- \* Pair up with your local reading council to devote a special day to this event in your community.
- \* Offer training to parents on instilling a love of reading in the home or helping their children with their homework.
- \* Ensure that the school principals and parents of children in your local elementary and secondary schools are aware of basic education and literacy training offered in your adult education centres. **Low literacy skills are often an intergenerational problem.**
- \* Speak about family literacy issues on your local radio and television stations.
- \* Ensure that family literacy is addressed in your school board's strategic plan.

The MELS recently recognized and highlighted the role that parents play in their children's education, particularly regarding improving drop-out rates and ensuring that students stay in school and obtain their Secondary 5 certification or qualification. Click on [http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/publications/publications/EPEPS/Formation\\_jeunes/Programmes/LEcoleJYTiens\\_TousEnsembleReussiteScolaire\\_a.pdf](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/publications/publications/EPEPS/Formation_jeunes/Programmes/LEcoleJYTiens_TousEnsembleReussiteScolaire_a.pdf) for a PDF copy.

## It's a fact

Children aged 2 to 3 who are read to several times a day do substantially better in kindergarten at the age of 4 and 5 than youngsters who are read to only a few times a week or less

*Source: (National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Statistics Canada, 1996-1997):*

[http://www.abc-can-ada.org/en/family\\_literacy/facts](http://www.abc-can-ada.org/en/family_literacy/facts)

## QLWG's Working for You:

### QLWG Skills for Life Series

#### PDF Copies of the QLWG Skills for Life Series Now On-Line!

PDF copies of all 30 QLWG Skills for Life Series units are now available on line at <http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/>.

### QLWG: Contact Details

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### Training for Adult Literacy Teachers

Teachers! Did you know that there are now three ways to use the QLWG Skills for Life Series with your adult learners? You can use the 30 units in the classroom, via traditional distance education or via e-learning. Want training? Contact your local QLWG rep for details!

### Teachers! Want to field-test the first e-learning units?

We now have 14 e-learning units from the QLWG Skills for Life Series on line and ready to be field-tested by our teachers and our students. Contact your local QLWG rep for details!

*(continued on page 2)*

## ABC CANADA CELEBRATES FAMILY LITERACY DAY

### Will you be part of the festivities?

For the tenth year, ABC CANADA is making it possible for thousands of Canadians to take part in family literacy initiatives across the country

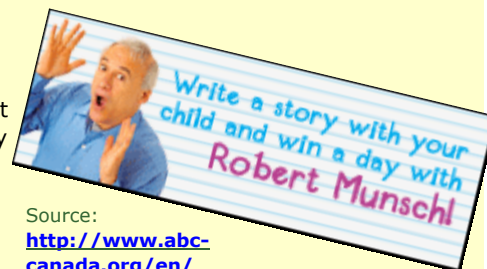
ABC CANADA encourages families with children to keep their literacy skills sharp by reading just 15 minutes a day.

They also invite Canadians to participate in the Family Literacy Day 2010 theme

and **Sing for Literacy!** Help raise funds for the literacy cause by gathering pledges to sing on Family Literacy Day.

Finally, ABC CANADA and FLD founding sponsor Honda Canada run the Munsch at Home contest. One lucky Canadian family will win a private visit to their home from renowned children's author and Honorary Chair of Family Literacy Day, Robert Munsch. To enter, all you have to do is write a short story with your family and submit it online!

Click on the link below for contest details and submit your entry!



Source:  
[http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family\\_literacy\\_day](http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy_day)

## QLWG's Working for You ...continued

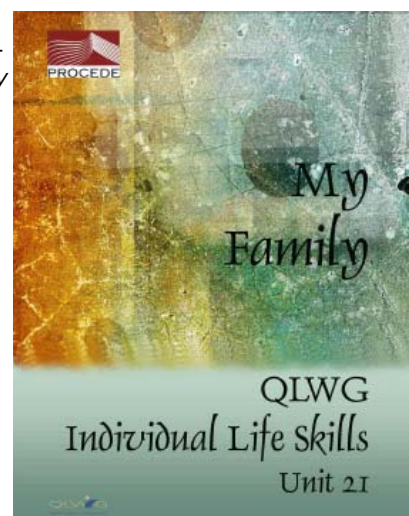
### The QLWG Skills for Life Series (Continued from page 1)

The *QLWG Skills for Life Series* includes several units which are perfect for parents, including *Around the Home*, *My Community*, *What's for Dinner?*, *Smart Shopping*, and *My Family*.

This purpose of the *My Family* unit (<http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/publica/skills/unit21/unit21.pdf>) is to equip adults with low literacy skills with the tools to more confidently handle their children's education, health, and general well-being. Explanations and tools to manage the family unit are provided. Activities encourage the learner to consider the definition of "family", to think about fostering a child's self-esteem, and to find out about supporting a child's education. Promoting parents' confidence in such areas will ideally encourage a generation of future learners.

*"This unit helped me to know more about my family. It showed me how to encourage my children. It also helped me to understand the importance of physical activities."*

Student Comment about The *My Family* Unit



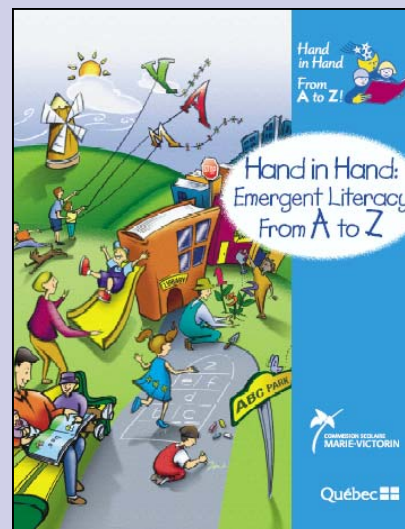
## Hand in Hand From A to Z—a Great Emergent Literacy Program!

The *Hand in Hand: Emergent Literacy From A to Z* handbook states that "research and experience in the field of literacy education show that (low literacy skills) can be a pervasive and recurring reality in certain milieus. Specialists have often pointed out that (low literacy skills) persist among those facing difficult living conditions (poverty, unemployment, single parenthood, under-education). This problem is especially apparent in families where one or both parents have poor reading and writing skills or are undereducated, have very little practical experience in writing and are from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

"The project is intended for families with children up to 4 years of age. Its goal is to support working-class families in their efforts to foster the overall development of their children and their emergent literacy skills. The project involves five areas of research: emergent reading and writing, early family intervention, the ecological approach, primary prevention, and partnership."

It is possible to download all the documents from this program, which is set up and ready to implement in a hands-on classroom with parents of young children. The members of QLWG highly recommend this program as part of the *MELS I Care About School* initiative to get parents more involved in their children's learning from an early age.

(source: *Hand in Hand: Emergent Literacy From A to Z* and [http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/DFGA/english/subjects/alphabetisation/autres\\_productions/txt\\_az.html](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/DFGA/english/subjects/alphabetisation/autres_productions/txt_az.html))



## Who is the QLWG Rep in Your Board?

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Or check us out at: <http://www.nald.ca/qlwg/>



## QLWG Partner Boards

Central Québec School Board  
 Eastern Shores School Board  
 Eastern Townships School Board  
 English Montreal School Board  
 Kativik School Board  
 Littoral School Board  
 Lester B. Pearson School Board  
 New Frontiers School Board  
 Riverside School Board  
 Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board  
 Western Quebec School Board

## Strategies for Adult Learners With Learning Disabilities

### Having a learning disability is a life-long condition.

(However,) learning disabilities need not prevent an individual from leading a productive and happy life. Individuals with learning disabilities can be found in all walks of life. Success may depend on many factors - severity of disability, early identification, remediation, career choice, support from family, friends and employers, etc.

### ENCOURAGE ADULTS TO USE SUCCESSFUL COPING STRATEGIES:

Coping strategies are methods, systems, or tricks people use to help themselves accomplish what they want/need to do. Examples include:

- Identifying and recognizing strengths and weaknesses.
- Setting realistic goals based on abilities.

- Using technology to compensate for weaknesses (word processor, spell checker, calculator, books on tape, etc.).
- Accepting the disability and knowing that it's quite OK.
- Being flexible - finding other ways of getting information.
- Joining activity-centered groups to make friends.
- Breaking down large tasks into small ones.
- Identifying deadlines for small manageable tasks.
- Making to-do lists with deadlines.
- Prioritizing rather than procrastinating.



Source: *The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada* Web site: <http://www.ldac-acta.ca> (printed with permission)

## Adult Literacy Recognition Awards 2009

Each year, The Quebec Literacy Working Group participates with the Quebec Association for Adult Learning (QAAL), Literacy Volunteers of Quebec (LVQ) and The Centre for Literacy to give an award to a deserving literacy student and teacher. The 2008 winner (awarded in October) was **Calogero J. Cucuzzella** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier School Board). The following is his winning entry:

Reading and writing has changed my life around tremendously. I'm an adult student learner that has finally been able to pick up a form and complete it for a job interview without any embarrassment, shame or guilt.

In the past I had been making all kinds of excuses and hiding behind anything that had to do with literacy.

Reading and writing has brought me confidence and pride. It has encouraged me to follow my dreams. It has been one of my biggest goals. I have finely made this a reality.

A million thanks go to all the people involved in this magical vision of "It's never too late to learn to Read and Write"

these wonderful people make Illiterates dreams come true. Not only am I learning, but I am having fun doing so! Keep the adult literacy reading and writing dream alive!



Left to right: Joani Tannebaum, LVQ, Paul Beaulieu, The Centre for Literacy, Calogero J. Cucuzzella, SWLSB and Patti Moore, QLWG.

## Useful Sites

[http://www.abc-canada.org/en/adult\\_literacy](http://www.abc-canada.org/en/adult_literacy)

ABC CANADA: Information about adult literacy and Family Literacy Day (statistics, facts, myths, profiles, resources and more!

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/Database/adultres.html#basic>

National Literacy Trust: this UK site provides a wealth of resources for the adult literacy teacher, including downloadable reading, writing, spelling and numeracy materials. A wealth of references and resource materials!



<http://www.nald.ca/resource/educational/category.asp?cat=10>

National Adult Literacy database (NALD). Great section for teachers and parents. Includes professional development, teaching tools, family literacy contacts, resources for children and young adults, resources for parents and resources for teachers. Well worth the visit!

### The Library and You

Have you visited your library lately? Partnering with your local library is a wonderful way for students to access resources and encourages a culture of literacy in and out of school. At PACC Adult Education in LaSalle, teachers and students work with L'Octogone Library on a regular basis. From librarians giving workshops at the centre to teachers requesting resources to students getting tours, the local library has become an invaluable education partner. So far, literacy, English, and French classes have benefitted from the services at the library. This year, L'Octogone Library has invited students from PACC Adult to take part in a project for Black History Month featuring the life of Marie-Josèphe Angélique. *Do not miss the opportunity to discover the ways your local library can help you.*



**Shiela Sachdeva**  
Educational Consultant – PACC Adult Education

#### READING RESCUE ONTARIO

##### A Novel Approach to Dyslexia!

Who better to come up with a new way of teaching dyslexics to read than an educator *and* the parent of a dyslexic child? **Reading Rescue Ontario** is a non-profit organization devoted to teaching reading. They specialize in working with children and adults who have dyslexia or learning disabilities. The program was designed by **Linda Soehner B.A., M.Ed.** It is sequential, well organized, and easy to follow. It can be taught by a teacher, a tutor, a school volunteer, or a parent. Up to this date, they have not had a student who did not make substantial gains, provided the program was followed. Click here to find out more:

<http://readingrescueontario.ca/>

#### Next Issue:

**Adult Learners' Week** will be held from **March 20– March 26** this year!

What will *your* adult education centre be doing? How do you recognise adult learners within *your* board?

*Write to us and let us know!*  
[moorep@cqsbc.ca](mailto:moorep@cqsbc.ca)

VOX

**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."**

William Butler Yeats



*"...the literacy resource for School Board Personnel"*