

BOOKMATES' WORKSHOPS SPRING 2023

For a complete listing of Professional Development opportunities please visit:
<https://bookmates.ca/what-we-offer/>.

Current themes include:

OPEN A BOOK, OPEN THE WORLD

This workshop is focused on sharing early literacy resources that promote diversity including race, creed, gender, culture, family structures and abilities. Content includes:

- Reviewing the importance of being intentional with the types of early literacy information, tools and strategies we incorporate into our programs
- Exploring concepts to strengthen, support and enhance the fundamentals of literacy while celebrating diverse communities
- Sharing a variety of children's books and related hands-on literacy extension activities that can be integrated into our current environments. These resources will be primarily geared to children ages 2-6 years of age.

BOUNCING BACK!: THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE OUTDOOR PLAY & LEARNING AS WE RECOVER FROM A PANDEMIC

This workshop focuses on providing early literacy resources, tools and strategies that encourage young children and their caregivers to get active outdoors. Using children's picture books as a framework, we will look at how we can extend concepts in a natural setting, focusing on inquiry-based learning while enhancing children's early literacy skills and overall healthy development.



Content includes:

- Exploring how active play and nature support healthy child development
- Sharing research detailing how outdoor active play reduces stress and improves health and well-being
- Discussing a variety of inter-generational active play and outdoor activities that can be readily replicated in existing programs or services and shared with families

BABY TALK: ENCOURAGING LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS

This workshop focuses on how we can support children's language development in the early years. Included will be practical, interactive strategies to help children engage and communicate with their caregivers. Some of the topics covered will be:

- Children's conversational styles
- The roles caregivers play
- Knowing how and why children communicate and how we can more effectively support them
- Strategies we can use to encourage interaction and conversation
- How to use rhymes and stories to help build emergent literacy skills
- Ways of supporting families as partners in building language skills

COLOURING OUTSIDE THE LINES:

This literacy framed workshop will explore the concept that creativity is a bridge to learning and an important part of a young child's development. It is designed to share practical skills, tips, and resources for how early learning educators can engage children with open-ended process art activities to extend literacy concepts. Content includes:



- Discussing the difference between arts and crafts
- Exploring how art supports healthy child development
- Sharing how literacy and language skills are developed through art
- Providing hands-on literacy activity ideas connected to process art

SLIDING INTO SUMMER – MATCHING SUMMER THEMED BOOKS WITH EARLY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This workshop will help refresh and rejuvenate your planning process with new ideas that support summer themed play-based, early learning activities. Included:

- Strategies to support early literacy in the summer months
- Summer themed book ideas, rhymes and songs
- A variety of literacy extension ideas provided as a resource

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Bookmates Inc is a non-profit organization focused on the development, training and delivery of family literacy and learning programs