



BOOKMATES WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS 2026

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.

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 ideas for hands-on literacy activities connected to art



START WITH A BOOK: EXTENDING THE STORY WITH HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Using children's picture books as the framework, this workshop will share a variety of ways we can nurture an early love of learning through play-based, engaging, kinesthetic activities. This is a workshop filled with hands-on activity ideas and a goal of setting up children, staff and families with a lifelong connection to literacy. Content includes:



- Reviewing the importance of play-based, child-led literacy activities in the early years (infant-6 years of age). Including how language and literacy development, as well as social-emotional learning and attachment is enhanced
- Exploring a wide variety of picture books and associated early literacy extension activities that can be easily integrated into current programming
- Brainstorming strategies to create an environment that supports a multitude of ways to nurture and sustain a love of literacy on a regular basis – for all of us, adults included!

WE DIG DINOSAURS (AND SO MUCH MORE!): Following Children's Interests



Join us as we explore the importance of encouraging, celebrating and building on the ideas and interests of young children in early learning settings. Together we'll look at stories, rhymes, songs and hands-on activities that can be adapted to the interests of the children in various environments while encouraging numeracy, literacy, gross and fine motor skills. Participants will have the opportunity to work with others to develop their own ready-to-use interest-based lesson/activity plans as we recognize the importance of following the lead of the children in our care. Best for those working with toddlers and pre-school aged children.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE! : Integrating Literacy and Nature

Using the outdoor environment as a learning tool, this presentation will:



- Review why child-led play is important
- Explore how active play and nature support healthy child development
- Share a variety of ways of extending literacy concepts in outdoor environments
- Provide a variety of inter-generational active play and outdoor activities that can be readily replicated in existing programs or services and shared with families

FABULOUS FACILITATING

This workshop is designed for those working in early learning settings and is ideal for those wanting strategies for facilitating groups of children, groups of adults/colleagues or parent-child program groups. In this interactive training you will:

- Learn what it means to be an effective facilitator
- Explore different learning styles
- Gain facilitation techniques
- Get strategies for problem solving in different situations
- Gather teambuilding activity ideas



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