



BOOKMATES' WORKSHOPS SPRING 2025

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

MUD MUFFINS & STONE SOUP: SUPPORTING LITERACY & NUMERACY SKILLS OUTDOORS



This workshop focuses on providing resources, tools and strategies designed to nurture creativity, encourage outdoor play and promote the following: early literacy and numeracy skills, sensory exploration, fine and gross motor skill building, and social-emotional development. We will look at how we can extend literacy and numeracy concepts in a natural setting, focusing on inquisitive, play-based learning while enhancing children's overall healthy development. Best for those working with toddlers and preschoolers.

BABY TALK: ENCOURAGING LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT WITH INFANTS & 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
- Strategies we can use to encourage interaction and conversation
- How to use rhymes and stories to help build emergent literacy skills



SING ME A STORY, READ ME A SONG



This workshop focuses on using songs and rhymes in developing early literacy skills. Through music, rhymes, stories, movement, props and more, participants will come away with a variety of ideas for books, songs and literacy extension activities that nurture healthy child development – including language building, numeracy support, gross and fine motor skills, and social-emotional development. No musical background or singing skills required! This workshop is ideal for those working with toddlers and preschool aged children.

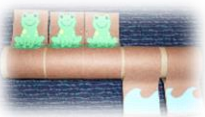


OPEN A BOOK, OPEN THE WORLD

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.

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!

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