

Introduction

The first Reading And Parents Program (RAPP) pack was developed in 1990. It was designed to encourage family reading and help parents support their children's emergent literacy skill development. The RAPP pack contains a quality children's book, reading and language hints, a craft idea, poetry and activity sheets all relating to the theme of the book. The packs can be easily adapted to produce packs that are individually suited for loaning to all families who have children aged from birth to ten years, regardless of the size of the family. By 2000, enough packs had been developed to collect them together and compile four resource books.

The fifth and latest collection in the series developed by Kingston Literacy was added three years ago. In keeping with our policy of always attempting to keep our resources current, this collection has a refreshing, updated look while still maintaining the integrity of the RAPP collection as a whole. It has been specifically designed for use with the Early Years Literacy book kits donated to each Early Years Centre in Ontario by the provincial government and was funded by the Early Years Challenge Fund. Any adaptations have been based on ideas given to the Family Literacy staff by parents.

At Kingston Literacy, the RAPP pack has been used in parent/child groups, as support material for "circle time" activities, on a one-to-one basis with adult students who are also parents and in small learning groups for parents.

This latest resource collection is intended to help organizations introduce a family literacy component to their existing programs or enhance a current family literacy program. It is intended to encourage the use of twelve of the books currently available at every Early Years Centre without costing a large amount of money for building up a basic collection of accompanying books. The books are listed at the back of the manual.

The intention of the manual is that the RAPP packs content may be photocopied for your program's use. The left margin is slightly larger to make it easier to photocopy without the spiral binding showing. Try to photocopy the sheets so that the print is as crisp, clear and straight as possible. We find that making a set of master copies in advance of subsequent printing is very helpful for speedy reproduction of the sheets.

The titles of the other four collections are listed at the back. We hope the RAPP packs prove to be a positive addition to your program.