

# Literacy Impacts Families - Training

The family is the strongest element in shaping lives. It's the most powerful support network there is. It's where the cycle of learning begins, where the attitudes of parents about learning become the educational values of their children. Through education of more than one generation, family literacy programs build on families' strengths and provide the tools and support they need to become stronger and more self-sufficient.

- National Center for Family Literacy - Kentucky



The Introduction to Family Literacy Certificate Training was developed by Regina Family Literacy Network, READ Saskatoon, Prince Albert Literacy Network and the Saskatchewan Literacy Network in 2007. The six hour workshop provides a general introduction to Family Literacy work, and is a prerequisite to most subsequent family literacy facilitator trainings.

Since 2008, 17 Introduction to Family Literacy Certificate Trainings have been facilitated by READ Saskatoon to 213 participants across Saskatchewan.



Short-term evaluations were collected to measure immediate outcomes in the two most recent trainings held in 2010. Mid-term impacts were measured by phone survey two years after completing the *Introduction to Family Literacy* with 49 facilitators.

### 1. Increased Confidence

- Immediately following the training, all participants felt they were appropriately prepared to facilitate a program.

### 2. Increased Knowledge

- Immediately following the training, 100% cited increased knowledge of the 4 components of family literacy (adult, child, intergenerational, parenting)
- After 2 years, 57% shared that they continued to build those components within their projects.

### 3. Increased Partnerships

- Immediately following the training, 67% planned to initiate partnerships to offer Family Literacy programs or projects. After 2 years, 34% listed new partnerships initiated, with funders (like 'Raise a Reader' grants) and public libraries being the most popular form of partnership.

### 4. Increased Awareness of Trainings, Programs and Resources available

- Immediately following the training, 81% reported increased awareness of local or provincial trainings, programs, and resources. After 2 years, 49% reported that they had referred others to trainings, programs, and resources.

Two years after taking the *Introduction to Family Literacy*, 41% of training participants had facilitated or co-facilitated Family Literacy programs. 61% of training participants planned, created or supported Family Literacy initiatives in their community. This becomes a compelling return on investment when "researchers estimate that over the lifetime of participants in an early literacy intervention program, returns to the public are \$7.16 for every dollar invested".  
Schweinhart et al., 1993

READ Saskatoon's Accountability Project aims to revise and fine-tune an accountability framework which assures READ Saskatoon is effectively and efficiently serving local and provincial needs through the appropriate use of available resources. Tools for outcome-based evaluation will be designed and piloted to measure the success, challenges and procedures of literacy projects and programs. By developing and implementing quality standards for evaluation, READ Saskatoon's Family Literacy, Adult Literacy and agency activities will be methodically measured to ensure standards of excellence remain in place and guide future directions of READ Saskatoon's Family and Adult Literacy projects and programs.