



Our Children, Our Community, Our Future

UEY Selkirk-Interlake Newsletter

February 2010, 23rd edition

What's new with UEY (Understanding the Early Years)?

UEY Surveys

You have one final opportunity to complete the UEY surveys about local early years programs and life in the community in which you live. A direct link to the online surveys can be found until January 29th on our UEY website at:

www.lssd.ca/ueyselkirkinterlake

1. Early Years Programs and Services Survey. This survey is designed for parents who have children in the 0-5 age range.

2. Life in the Community Survey

This survey is designed to obtain information from all community members.

UEY Conference

Karin and I will be travelling to Ottawa in early March to attend a UEY Legacy Forum. This conference will include representative from all previous and current UEY projects.

UEY Reports

This is the final year of our UEY Selkirk-Interlake initiative. During the next few months, Karin and I will be compiling the research we have gathered and writing reports. The information we have collected will be shared with the community later this spring.



UEY Early Years Service Providers workshop

UEY Selkirk-Interlake and the Lord Selkirk Early Years Committee are co-hosting a workshop for early years providers on January 28th. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Rob Santos from the Healthy Child Manitoba Office. Dr. Santos will provide insight to service providers about local Early Development Instrument (EDI), how EDI is used globally, and the group will have an opportunity to discuss how they can create a change in the future of our children.

Special points of interest:

- ☺ UEY updates
- ☺ Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- ☺ Help Your Child Become a Reader
- ☺ I Love to Read month

"Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."

Roger Lewin

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

A local Selkirk Imagination Library Committee has been working to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to the City of Selkirk. The Imagination Library is a preschool literacy program that provides children with a new, free, age-appropriate hardcover book each month.

The goal of the program is to ensure that children have quality books in their home. The program promotes a love of reading among children and helps ensure that children enter kindergarten with a strong ability to read and an eagerness to learn. It also promotes parent-child interactions.

All children who are registered in the program will have one book mailed to them at their home address each month until they turn age 5. The cost of the books and mailing is raised within the community by the Selkirk Imagination Library through sponsorships and individual donations.

Eligibility for the program:

- the child lives in the City of Selkirk
- The child is between 0-5 years of age (up to a child's 5th birthday)



Selkirk Imagination Library Launch

If you live in the city of Selkirk and have children between age 0-5, please join the Selkirk Committee and program sponsors at its registration launch:

Date: February 24

Location: Selkirk Friendship Centre

Time: 3-6 PM

At this time, you can register your child for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. All children registered at this event will have their name entered to win an Imagination Library door prize. There will be activity stations and books read to children who attend.

The UEY Selkirk - Interlake project is funded by the Government of Canada's Understanding the Early Years Initiative.

I Love to Read Month

February is I Love to Read Month in Manitoba. There are many things you can do to promote reading this month.

Visiting the Library - Libraries offer more than books. They are places of learning and discovery for everyone. Ask at the library about getting a library card in your child's name and, if you don't already have one, get a card for yourself.

The Librarian - Introduce yourself and your child to your librarian. Librarians can help you to select the best books that are both fun and suitable for your

child's age level. They can also show you the other programs and services the library has to offer.

Books...and More

In addition to a wealth of books, your library most likely will have tapes and CDs of books, musical CDs and tapes, movies, computers that you can use, and many more resources. You also might find books in languages other than English, or programs to help adults improve their reading. If you would like reading help for



yourself or your family, check with the librarian about literacy programs in your community.



Supervised Story Times

Babies and toddlers - The Red River North Regional Library has group story hours that are short and geared to the attention spans of the children. Contact the library at 482-3522 or check the Southeast Interlake Early Childhood Development Coalition calendar for a list of dates and activities.

Encourage Reading at Home

Here's how to encourage your child to become a better reader.

1. Ask him/her to reread stories out loud for fluency, expression, and speed. Rereading is the best way to improve these qualities.
2. Build a reading fort. A blanket over a kitchen table, a flashlight and a tub of books is cozy and fun as the days get colder and darker.
3. Grandparents are good listeners. When your child has practiced a story to perfection, encourage him/her to phone Grandma and say,

"listen! I have a story to read to you." Or encourage Grandpa to request a story when he calls.



4. Provide an audience. Request reading performances from your children. They will be more comfortable when it is their turn in the "reader's chair" at school if they've practiced at home. Pets and stuffed animals make a tireless audience for readers when

parents are busy.

5. Provide plenty of paper and pencils. Ask your child to draw a picture or a story map to show what happened in the story.
6. When story time is over, close the book and say "Start at the beginning and tell me what happened in the story."
7. Bring out the actor in your child. Can he read in a mouse voice? Try a monster voice. (Model your favorite to get him / her going)

Ways to Support Early Learning

Language and Communication

Babies express their needs and feelings through sounds and cries, body movements, and facial expressions. Your baby will begin using words sometime around 1 year. By the time she is 3, she will be speaking in short (3-5 word sentences).

What you can do:

- watch and listen to see how your baby communicates what she is thinking and feeling
- Repeat the sounds and words your child uses and have back and forth conversations
- Read, sing, and tell stories. These

are fun ways to help your child understand the meaning of new words and ideas.

- Talk about what you do together - as you play, do errands, or visit friends and family.

Thinking Skills

Your child is learning how the world works by playing and exploring. Through play, babies and toddlers learn about how things work and how to be good problem-solvers.

What you can do:

- Encourage your child to explore toys in different ways - by touching,

banging, stacking, and shaking.

- Turn everyday routines into playful learning moments. For example, bath time is a chance to learn about ideas like wet/dry and sinking/floating.
- Follow your child's interests. Children learn best through activities that excite them.
- Ask your child questions that get him thinking as he hears age 3. For example, when reading a book, together, ask "Why do you think the girl is laughing?"

