

# THE MAINE FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE

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## WHAT IS THE MAINE FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE?

The Maine Family Literacy is designed to support the development and expansion of family literacy programming throughout the State of Maine. As of June 2011 the Maine Family Literacy Initiative has awarded 243 family literacy grants, totaling \$4,341,991. We are funded through the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

## WHAT IS FAMILY LITERACY?

Family Literacy is a family-centered educational approach that improves the basic reading, writing, English language proficiency, and life skills of parents and their children birth through age 8. Family Literacy requires the full commitment of the community to work together to provide:

**Adult Literacy** including: basic skills development in reading, writing, and English Language; High School Diploma courses; and GED preparation courses and testing.

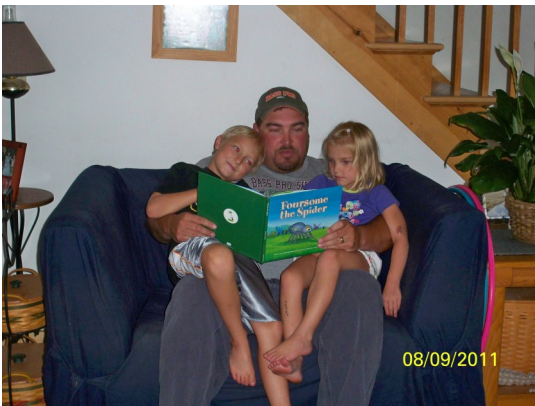
**Early Childhood Literacy** including: gross motor and early language development programming for infants and toddlers; and language development, pre-literacy, and early reading/reading development programming for children between 3 and 8 years of age;

**Parenting Education** including: coaching to help parents become their children's first and most significant teachers, to promote their children's speech, reading, and educational development, and to form partnerships with their children's teachers and schools; and

**Intergenerational Literacy** including: activities designed to build healthy, literacy-focused, nurturing relationships between parents and children by helping families to recognize and capitalize on varied opportunities to learn and grow together.



## TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Family Literacy is based on evidence that a parent's, especially the mother's, educational level exerts a strong influence on children's school success and the family's economic well being. Underdeveloped literacy skills in parents can create enormous pressures on the family, on schools and on communities today and in the future.

Family Literacy is not a stand alone program. It is an educational approach that restructures and integrates a variety of community-based services to support the family as they grow toward literacy and self-sufficiency.

## HOW CAN YOU FIND US?

To find out how to apply for a grant to promote family literacy in your community or to locate a family literacy program near you, visit the Maine Family Literacy Initiative at [www.mainefamilyliteracy.com](http://www.mainefamilyliteracy.com), or contact Becky Dyer, Maine Family Literacy Initiative Director at [becky@mainefamilyliteracy.com](mailto:becky@mainefamilyliteracy.com) or 207-441-9965.

## Maine Family Literacy Initiative Lighthouse Model Programs

### THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

*The Passages Program* of the Community School is a home-based high school diploma program for teen parents, aged 14-20, residing in Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and Washington counties. The *Passages Program* provides individualized instruction to students in their homes, thereby eliminating student need to secure daily childcare and transportation to attend school. Students and teachers form strong relationships based on mutual learning and respect for students' strengths, needs and their desire to be the best parents they can be. Students work at their own pace to meet 24 core skill requirements in Academics, Parenting, Life Skills, including math science, social studies, English language, budgeting nutrition, family literacy, child development and more. Both parents and their young children participate in this program, which includes strong adult, early and intergenerational family literacy components. For more information, contact Martha Kempe at [Martha.thecommunityschool@gmail.com](mailto:Martha.thecommunityschool@gmail.com) or 207-236-8404 x 208.

### MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT (MSAD) # 27

The *Center and Home-based Instructional Program for Parents and Youth (CHIPPY)* program works to improve the educational and workforce development opportunities of needy families in the St John Valley region of northern Maine through the integrated delivery of pre-literacy and literacy services for children, literacy for adults, intergenerational activities and parenting education. Through four days a week of center-based programming and regular home visits by a teaching team, children acquire the literacy and social skills necessary for school readiness and success, while adults learn valuable literacy, academic, parenting, life, workforce development, career and college ready skills. For more information, contact Peter Caron at [petercaron@sad27.org](mailto:petercaron@sad27.org) or call 207-834-3536.

### MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT (MSAD) #61/72

*Western Maine Family Literacy* provides adult education, early childhood literacy, intergenerational literacy, parenting education, career exploration and job training to families through a combination of center-and home-based services. They provide free adult education and a licensed childcare center at the Crooked River Adult Education Center, as well as programming at Fryeburg Head Start, Brownville Public Library, and Molly Ockett Middle School. Services are also provided at the libraries in Bridgton, Sebago, Denmark, Fryeburg and Lovell as requested. For more information, contact Kristia Merriam at [kristia9@yahoo.com](mailto:kristia9@yahoo.com) or call 207- 627-4291.

### SANFORD COMMUNITY ADULT EDUCATION

*FAMILIES READ* operates on Sanford Community Adult Education's academic campus in Springvale. Family literacy participants attend academic classes at the Anderson Learning Center and participate in intergenerational time, playgroups, and support groups at the school's childcare center, First Steps. Families READ pays 100% of the parent's education and family support costs, including payment for books, classes, childcare (at First Steps) and transportation to classes and Families READ playgroups. In addition, if a parent graduates from SCAE while in the Families READ program, he or she continues to receive free childcare while pursuing the next step in his or her education. For more information, contact Allen Lampert at [alampert@sanford.org](mailto:alampert@sanford.org) or Leah Caverno at [lcaverno@sanford.org](mailto:lcaverno@sanford.org) or call 207-490-5145.

### REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT # 3 ADULT EDUCATION

*Students and Parents in Cooperative Education (SPICE)* Family Literacy Program has always been a home-based program serving most in need families in a 440 square mile, 11 town district in western Waldo County. The program sends adult education and early childhood instructors into the homes using laptops, computer-assisted curricula and Internet to alleviate the barriers of child care and transportation. In 2005, the SPICE Program was recognized as an Effective Program and listed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Lifelong Learning database. In 2010, the SPICE program created a virtual school with assistance from a NASA engineer and with help from England and Mexico. Today that virtual school is helping families reach their educational goals and overcoming the issues of rural isolation. For more information, contact Pat Hughes at [phughes@rsu3.org](mailto:phughes@rsu3.org) or call 207-568-3426.

