

Literacy is much more than reading and writing; it is an essential skill that is the foundation for future learning. It is about people's ability to participate in every day activities like banking, reading a safety manual, reviewing a child's report card and acquiring new skills to keep or to change jobs.

### **Did you know...**

40% of adult Albertans and 35% of working age Albertans do not have the literacy skills they need to reach their own potential in our increasingly knowledge-based economy. (International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey 2005, Statistics Canada).

### **Keep literacy in your life!**

- Your brain is a muscle that needs exercise. Use it or lose it! Read something every day.
- Reading can happen anywhere — at the bus stop, hockey game, and doctor's office— even the bathroom!
- Let your child help you cook and have him or her read out the ingredients from the recipe. Doubling the recipe builds great math skills.
- Support your local library by becoming a member. Take one book out at least once a month. Libraries are a great place to spend a rainy day!
- Literacy is a gift that doesn't come easily to many people. Share your gift by volunteering at a local literacy program.
- Here's a game to play in the car for younger children: write out the alphabet on a piece of paper. Ask you children to watch the letters on the license plates of passing cars. The first child to cross off all the letters is the winner.
- Keep in touch with family and friends by sending birthday greetings, anniversary cards, notes and emails. Remember to use correct grammar and punctuation to keep your language skills strong.
- Start a family photo album with your child. Below each picture, help your child write a story describing it. Future generations will thank you for it!

For more information on literacy and how you can help, contact:

#### **Literacy Alberta**

302, 1300 8 St. SW

Calgary AB T2R 1B2

Phone: 403-410-6990 Fax: 403-410-9024

Literacy Help Line 1-800-767-3231

[www.literacyalberta.ca](http://www.literacyalberta.ca)

[office@literacyalberta.ca](mailto:office@literacyalberta.ca)