



OTTAWA-CARLETON  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres are operated in 8 Ottawa-Carleton District School Board elementary schools with the support of the Ministry of Education.

The Centres welcome parents/caregivers and their children from birth to age 6 to help prepare them for starting school. The Centres also encourage families to be a part of their children's early learning by:

- Helping children build essential literacy and numeracy skills through stories, music, reading and playing;
- Offering a book-lending library in different languages so parents can read to their children in their first language;
- Familiarizing children and families with school routines;
- Giving children and families the chance to spend time with other families; and
- Linking families with appropriate community resources for special needs, health and other related services.

Centre staff work closely with kindergarten teachers to ensure a positive and welcoming learning environment so that children can later make a smooth transition to school.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do I have to stay with my child at the Centre?**

Yes, every child who attends a Centre needs to be accompanied by an adult. The parent/caregiver remains with the child at all times and together, they participate in all program activities. The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre program is designed to facilitate optimal parent/caregiver engagement.

### **What happens in the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre?**

Each Centre has a daily schedule which allows for parents/caregivers and their children to engage in different activities such as art, sand and water play, story and music time. These literacy and numeracy experiences will help your child develop important skills as they prepare to enter kindergarten. The program facilitator has extensive knowledge of child development and can offer support and facilitate an early connection to the school.

### **When are the centres open?**

The Centres are open from September to June and follow the elementary school year calendar (closed for statutory holidays, Christmas holidays, March Break and during summer months).



**Do I need to register to attend?**

No, pre-registration is not required. You will be asked to fill out a registration form on your first visit.

**Is there any cost to attend the program?**

No, access to the program is free of charge.

**Can I come more than once per week?**

Yes, families are free to use the Centres as many times as they choose.

**Do I have to bring a snack?**

No, a nutritious snack will be provided during the program. You are welcomed to bring your lunch to the program if you plan on staying for the lunch hour (Note: Microwaves are not available to reheat lunches). We strive to provide a nut-free environment. Please do not bring any nuts or foods which may have been in contact with nut products.

**Where do I enter when I arrive at the school?**

Please report to the school's main reception upon your first visit. The school strives to provide a safe learning environment for children and families and your cooperation supports the District's safe schools policy.

**How can I get more information?**

Visit [www.ocdsb.ca/par/pflc](http://www.ocdsb.ca/par/pflc), email [pflc@ocdsb.ca](mailto:pflc@ocdsb.ca) or call 613-596-8211 ext. 3207.

**Parenting and Family Literacy Centre locations:****Carleton Heights Public School**

1660 Prince of Wales Drive  
9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Hilson Avenue Public School**

407 Hilson Avenue  
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Queen Mary Street Public School**

557 Queen Mary Street  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Featherston Drive Public School**

1801 Featherston Drive  
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Cambridge Street Community Public School**

250 Cambridge Street North  
9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Severn Avenue Public School**

2553 Severn Avenue  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**Charles H. Hulse Public School**

2605 Alta Vista Drive  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday

**York Street Public School**

310 York Street  
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday



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