

## Babies, Books & Bonding



Let Their Words Begin With Me



The Babies, Books and Bonding early literacy program provides age appropriate board books and literacy education to northern Saskatchewan children and their families at five points in their first four years. Language exposure in infants and toddlers has been linked to literacy and academic achievement. Literacy is linked to higher levels of employment and income, and reduced health risk behaviours such as smoking, physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

Babies, Books and Bonding supports early literacy to improve lifelong physical and mental wellbeing.

## Babies, Books and Bonding in 2015 -2016



2474 Books Distributed



Over 750 Children



18+ Communities

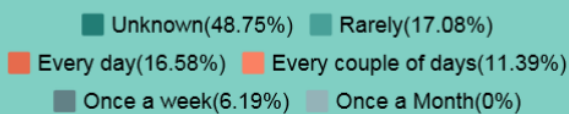


For 1/4 of respondents, Babies, Books and Bonding is their only source of literacy resources.

## Pre/Post Natal Reading Frequency

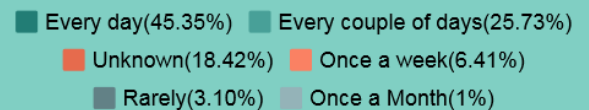
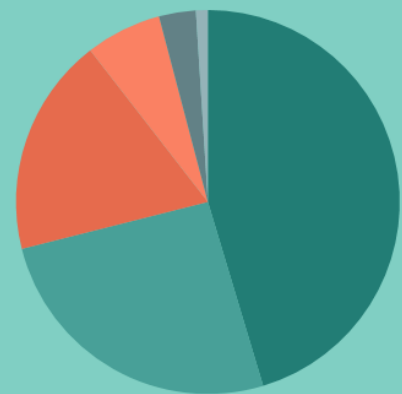
Research shows that when health care professionals discuss literacy development with parents and provide them with tools, such as age appropriate books, it can have a positive effect on family attitudes towards reading, reading frequency and pre-school language scores.

Information on reading and literacy building behaviours in the home is gathered by health care providers as part of the Babies, Books and Bonding program.



## 18 Month Reading Frequency

An overall increase in the frequency of reading is reported by 23% of Babies, Books and Bonding families between pre/post natal and 18 month clinic visits.



### Sources:

1. Canadian Pediatric Society Community Pediatrics Committee. Read, speak, sing: Promoting literacy in the physician's office. Paediatric Child Health 2006; 11(9): 601-6.
  2. McCain M, Mustard JF. Reversing the Real Brain Drain: Early Years Study Final Report, Ontario Children's Secretariat, Publications Ontario 1999.
  3. Needlman R, Silverstein M. Pediatric interventions to support reading aloud: How good is the evidence? J Dev Behav Pediatr 2004; 25:352-63.
- All Babies, Books and Bonding program data prepared by Population Health Unit, May 2016.

## Northern Healthy Communities Partnership

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