

THE PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM



The Parent-Child Mother Goose program was developed in Ontario in 1987 and has been running in Grand Forks for the past 7 years and in the West Boundary for the past 2 years. It is a group experience for babies, young children and their parents or caregivers. Mother Goose is a wonderful, imaginative program that believes rhymes, songs and stories should be an important part of children's lives from the time they are born. It is a program that returns to a traditional way of playing with children and it is a powerful approach to managing behaviour and encouraging early brain development and literacy. Programs run throughout the Boundary and groups meet for 1.5 hrs a week for 10 weeks, at no charge to the participants. As anyone who has attended the program can tell you, it is a great way to develop the skills children need to become successful learners and it is also a lot of fun!

During the past few months, members of the Boundary Mother Goose group have been meeting regularly in a Grand Forks recording studio to create an exciting new CD; a compilation of favourite rhymes, songs and stories from the group's 7 years of presenting Mother Goose programs. Past participants and community parents and grandparents alike eagerly anticipate the recording's completion.

The Mother Goose advisory sees this CD as both a fundraising tool (sustainable funding for this program is desperately needed) and as a tool for parents looking for a great resource to share with their children (long car rides come to mind!). The CD includes active rhymes, finger rhymes, silly songs and lullabies. The second half contains 9 stories, wonderful for quiet time. Although booklets with words and lyrics are routinely given out to parents at the end of each 10-week program, some parents never use the written booklets or say that they can't remember the tune or rhythm of certain songs and rhymes. This CD would also be very useful to facilitators of early literacy programs, pre-school teachers, and childcare or daycare providers who want to increase their repertoire of rhymes and stories.

Hicikity-Pickity Bumblebee has been the mascot of the Mother Goose program in the Boundary since it's inception. We thought it would be the perfect title for the CD, and the graphic that local artist Julie Draper created, fits the feeling of the CD perfectly.

With the help of 4 local children on a few of the songs, the volunteer hours of the Mother Goose advisory, a wonderful recording engineer and funding dollars from Literacy Now! our group has created a CD that we are very proud of.

The CD will be available for \$12.00 with an optional booklet of lyrics and stories available for \$6.00. Cassettes can be dubbed upon request. Look for our table at the Grand Forks Secondary School's Craft Fair on November 26th at Perley School.

For more information about Family Literacy please contact Lizanne Eastwood - Family Literacy Coordinator for Grand Forks and the West Boundary - CBAL @(250) 442-2533

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To register for Mother Goose programs please contact Autumn at the Glanville Centre 442-2267 or 1-877-442-5355