

Communicator Article – April 2/07
The Family Stories Project

Literacy encompasses more than just reading and writing. The ancient act of telling our own stories orally is the basis of all literacy activities. Sadly, in this day of the all-pervasive electronic box, the art of storytelling is becoming a dying one. Gone are the days of sitting round the kitchen table with grandparents and babies and all the extended family in between, reminiscing about days gone by, or anticipating the days to come. Genealogy research is a current obsession for many people. Tracking our ancestor's births and deaths can be fascinating, but why not start your own Family Stories Project. Collecting and journaling the stories from your childhood, recording memories your parents have passed on about their courtship, wedding and childrearing days can be an endless source of fascination for the current generation. Every child wants to know their birth story, but how many of us have taken the time to record these precious details. The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy is excited to host 2 evenings in May, dedicated to recording our stories in words and pictures. A free journal will be provided to each individual or family that pre-registers. Bring your stories, your photos, your memories, thoughts and dreams and we'll supply the journals, coloured pens, fancy scissors and glue sticks. Local storyteller Michele Dean will lead a discussion on the Power of Personal Storytelling. A healthy snack and beverages will also be supplied. This workshop is open to adults and children but pre-registration is necessary as space is limited. We will be meeting at the Boundary Child Care Resource and Referral office in the Boundary Mall on two Monday evenings in May (time and dates TBA). Traditions and memories that are carried on into the future link the next generation, not only to the past, but also to you. Please join us and start your own family stories project. To pre-register for this or for information on other family literacy programs, please contact Lizanne Eastwood – Family Literacy Coordinator for Grand Forks and the West Boundary @ 442-2533 or leastwood@thehub.literacy.bc.ca