

GET INVOLVED WITH EARLY WORDS

Early Words/Premiers mots provides healthcare professionals with resources, training and books so they can deliver early literacy support to families with babies and young children 5 and under.

This simple but effective program is easily integrated into the way healthcare professionals already interact with families. We are able to offer this program thanks to funders who share our vision for a more literate Canada.



Why?

Evidence shows that children whose families receive early literacy guidance as part of well-child healthcare visits are **2.5 times as likely** to be read to frequently. And this is important because kids who are exposed to lots of words from loving adults in the years before age five are more likely to arrive at school ready to learn to read themselves.

Our Goal:

To make early literacy guidance as routine at healthcare visits as weighing and measuring babies and young children.

Who can apply to participate in *Early Words*?

Health clinics and hospitals across Canada who routinely see families with children from newborn to age five that face barriers to learning. This might include families where the parents struggle with literacy. Or families that can't easily access children's books or early childhood programs. Maybe they are new to Canada, or experiencing economic hardship or other challenges.

WHAT WE PROVIDE



Evidence-based **training** to guide you on how to talk to families about early literacy development



High-quality culturally and developmentally-appropriate **children's books** for families to take home



Early literacy **guides and resources** with tips and activities for families to try at home



Tools to track your progress and impact

WHAT'S NEXT?

**Thursday,
September 11,
11:00AM EST**

Info sessions with opportunity to ask questions. Optional, but highly recommended. [Register here.](#)

**Friday, September 26
(midnight, EST)**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**October to
November 2025**

Shortlisted applicants participate in readiness assessment with *Early Words* staff

December 2025

Partners selected and invited to become *Early Words* sites

**January to
February 2026**

New *Early Words* clinics participate in registration and healthcare provider training

March 2026

New *Early Words* clinics begin offering early literacy support and resources to families

Fill out an Expression of Interest:
<https://zfrmz.com/JWLRr7qCLi9K0S0VXwMi>

Want to learn more about *Early Words*?

Contact us at earlywords@childrensliteracy.ca or visit our website:
<https://childrensliteracy.ca/Programs/Early-Words>

