

# News Release



Markham Public Libraries

A world of information and inspiration

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 5, 2004**

## EARLY LEARNING = LIFELONG SUCCESS

MARKHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES SUPPORTS OUR CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Recent stories in the press featuring studies by child development expert Fraser Mustard provide evidence that experiences in the first three years of life set the foundation for later learning, behaviour and health. The Early Years Study estimates that, regardless of socio-economic status, one in four children enter kindergarten without the basic tools needed to succeed. By Grade 1 it may be too late to help those who have fallen behind.

Mustard asserts that what really counts in helping our children get a great start in life is quality parenting, good interaction and reading to children.

**How can Markham Public Libraries help?** We offer a wide array of programs, many of them free, designed to develop early literacy skills. Our programs are offered in an environment that is child-oriented, interactive, educational and entertaining.

Our **Mother Goose** programs introduce you to rhymes, knee bounces, songs and books. Rhyming, singing and reading together are important ways for you to connect with your baby and lay the foundation for lifelong literacy.

Our **Story Times** introduce your toddler or preschooler to the best in children's literature with a focus on language development and social skills.

Our **Early Years** programs, offered in partnership with Pathways for Children, Youth & Families and Ontario Early Years, are an opportunity for you and your baby or preschooler to play, problem solve and interact with others. There's also time for songs, rhymes and books, keys to later literacy. Early Years staff can give you great parenting tips or recommend community resources.

Our **Family Drop-ins** give you a chance to relax and play with your child in an informal setting, using toys and other equipment for learning and problem solving, and offer stories that you can enjoy together.

Our **Get Ready to Read** program for children in JK and SK is a pre-reading course that uses songs, stories and educational games to prepare young learners for success in reading.

For program schedules visit any of our libraries and pick up a program brochure or visit our website: [www.markhampubliclibraries.ca/whatson.htm](http://www.markhampubliclibraries.ca/whatson.htm)

And don't forget our library materials and other resources. Library staff can direct you to books, web sites and other resources for you and your child.

Our **books, videos, DVDs, CDs, kits and software** provide an endless supply of reading and learning choices for you and your child, as well as up-to-the-minute advice on parenting, early learning and literacy.

Our **web site** has a great section of staff-selected Parenting sites to assist you. Check them out at: [www.markhampubliclibraries.ca/links\\_parenting.htm](http://www.markhampubliclibraries.ca/links_parenting.htm)

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**Children's Services extensions:**

Markham Village Library	x 4284
Milliken Mills Library	x 5344
Thornhill Community Centre Library	x 3536
Unionville Library	x 5522