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Greetings,

In 2007 a group of community partners connected for the first time to offer “*Sowing the Seeds for Literacy*”. This one-day conference was developed primarily for early childhood educators, kindergarten and primary teachers. Strong feedback from participants led to a commitment to offer the conference the following year, and for every year until 2019. The primary focus of the conference remained strengthening our understanding of child brain development, sharing current information in language and literacy research, and exploring practical strategies for the classroom. Over the years, we have delved into:

- Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking as Foundations for Literacy
- Vocabulary Foundations and Reading Comprehension
- Numeracy and Literacy
- Boys and Literacy
- Poverty and Literacy
- Phonological Awareness
- Print Awareness and Print Knowledge
- Literacy and Play-Based Learning
- Getting Literacy into Play
- Self Regulation and Literacy
- Technology and Literacy
- Outdoors and Literacy Skills
- Loose Parts Play and Literacy

At the time of launching “*Sowing the Seeds for Literacy*”, there were few other continuing education opportunities for ECE teachers in our community. Today, we celebrate the strong work of the Parent and Professional Resource Centre (PPRC) (offered through Lambton College with the support of the County of Lambton) in discerning education needs in our community, and in arranging education opportunities at no cost to participants.

Moving forward, “*Sowing the Seeds for Literacy*” will no longer be offered as a stand-alone literacy conference with a stand-alone planning committee. Instead, the PPRC advisory committee will continue to explore community educator needs and work to offer learning opportunities that address a range of topics including literacy and learning. A number of members of the “*Sowing the Seeds for Literacy*” planning table participate on the PPRC advisory committee and as such, we know that language and literacy will remain an important topic for consideration.

As a legacy to 12 years of “*Sowing the Seeds for Literacy*”, the planning committee is making available 9 mini libraries specifically selected by our Library and EarlyON Literacy Specialists (3 sets designed separately for infants/toddlers, 3 sets for preschoolers, and 3 sets for primary students).

Click [here](#) by noon October 15, 2019 for a chance to receive one of the libraries.

You will be asked to share your favourite learning from *Sowing the Seeds for Literacy* – or your favourite strategy to support language and literacy learning in children. Your contact information, childcare/school name and age grouping will be required. Sites receiving a library will be notified the week of October 21, 2019. It is our hope that as educators, we will all continue to do what we can to “sprinkle literacy and language” into all we do!

Kind regards,

Alison Morrison BScN, MSc.
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