

## Literacy Tips - January

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a nice holiday break. This month, I would like to talk about reading choices. As teachers, we are usually encouraging stories or non-fiction books for your child to listen to or practice reading with. These are very important but there are many other reading choices to get your child excited about reading and to demonstrate how important this skill is in our lives. Here are some other choices that might interest your child.

1. Have your child read the recipe to you as you make a meal or dessert choice.
2. Download the song lyrics to some favorite songs. Have your child read the lyrics and try to figure out what the lyricist was trying to say.
3. Read poems instead of stories. Poetry is a good choice for vocabulary and comprehension.
4. Buy some magazines and have your child read these. Point out that many magazines offer information about living things and the earth we live in. Sometimes they start with an opinion piece from the editor. These can sometimes be informative or controversial. Discuss whether you agree with them.
5. Buy some comics. My daughter used to love Archie comics and was always excited to get the next digest from Walmart or another store.
6. Read the ingredient list on food or cosmetic items.
7. Buy a book of maps and look for towns/cities in our provinces and territories. There are books in our libraries that talk about why towns in our province got the names that they did.
8. Download some news apps and have your child read about current events.

These are just a few of the many choices, besides books, that your child can explore. Reading is a lifelong skill that we need in all aspects of our lives. I hope that some of these suggestions offer some different choices to practice this skill.