

Family literacy has always scored well on the “feel good” scale with iconic images of parents reading with their children. What it has lacked, until now, are rigorous and multiyear studies demonstrating impact in quantitative terms. For that reason ***Family Literacy Matters*** is destined to be a landmark study in the field.

By following families over three years the authors have convincingly shown the power of a family literacy program to change lives. At the broadest level their conclusions will come as little surprise to anyone in the literacy field – the children with the greatest need benefited the most, and parents with at least high school education could help their children the most.

The real richness of this volume, however, lies in the depth of detail. The parents involved in the program told the researchers they were generally paying more attention to printed material, reading more often and wanted to learn how to improve their literacy. They became more sophisticated in gauging their children’s literacy skills and more sure of their own abilities to help those children.

Everyone involved in family literacy should buy two copies of this book – and give the second to a politician at the local, provincial or federal level.

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National Science Reporter
The Toronto Star

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