



READ TO ME! QUARTERLY SPRING 2008

CONNECT

Read to Me! Adds Kisses

Read to Me! is delighted to announce that thanks to the generous support of the Nova Scotia Nurses' Union and Nova Scotia Teachers Union, all new families in Nova Scotia will receive *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!* in their Read to Me! bag in 2008.

Kisses Kisses Baby-O! is a real home-grown treasure and is the very first Nova Scotian board book for babies. It is written by Read to Me! spokesperson and award-winning author Sheree Fitch and published by Nova Scotia's Nimbus Publishing. Illustrations are by local artist Hilda Rose.

We know that families will love reading this book aloud with all the sing-song bounce and rhythm in the language. It is sure to inspire lots of fun -- tickling, clapping, snuggling, and of course, kissing.



"Kisses Kisses Baby-O! will enrich a child's early years and develop special lifelong bonds."
-Janet Hazelton President NSNU and Mary-Lou Donnelly President NSTU

Author Sheree Fitch and artist HildaRose sign books for an enthusiastic fan.



The book was launched in the Read to Me! bag on January 25th in celebration of Family Literacy Day. This exciting addition fills the Read to Me! bag with three great books for babies.

To celebrate the launch, Sheree Fitch read to a crowd of over one hundred parents and bouncing babies at Alderney Gate Public Library. Sheree had everyone chanting along with her, and each family went home with their very own copy of *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!*

The book was a very special labour of love for Sheree who says, "This books feels like a kiss to every baby in our province. A hug and a snuggle and a book filled with flannel blanket colours and pictures of beautiful babies. What a positive, safe place to begin the experience of reading!"

Libraries Celebrate the 4th Annual Read to Me! Jamboree

The Read to Me! Jamboree is an annual celebration of library baby programs throughout Nova Scotia.



Thank You!

We would like to thank all of the publishers and groups that donated prizes for the Jamborees. The gifts helped encourage even our smallest attendees to get excited about reading!


 SCHOLASTIC

 Canadian Children's Book Centre

 Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, Publishers

 ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
Outstanding Books for Young Readers

 etc.
PRESS

 RAINCOAST BOOKS

 Annick Press

Maritime Campus Store
Admiralty Canvas

What fun was had by all at this year's Jamborees! Throughout the month of October, over 1300 babies, parents and caregivers attended the celebrations in 61 libraries across Nova Scotia.

This year, our 4th annual kickoff took place in early October at Yarmouth's Burridge Campus. Babies, caregivers, and parents attended the Jamboree where RCMP Constable Mark Connell, a strong proponent of literacy, read stories along with Joanne Head, Deputy Head of Western Counties Regional Library. A snack and book giveaways followed the reading.

By offering programs like the Read to Me! Jamboree, libraries help families give children the gift of reading, getting them excited about books at an early age. At the same time, parents learn about activities and resources that are available in their very own community.

Day care educators also attended the Jamborees, helping to make that essential link between early childhood and literacy.

Read to Me! sends many thanks to all of the library staff and branches who made this year's Jamborees a hit once again.



Mom and baby enjoy the games at the Captain William Spry Library (right); Sydney's McConnell Library with 119 children, parents, and caregivers attending this year (above); Siblings reading together at the Elmsdale Library, Colchester-East Hants (above right).



SUBARU



New SUBARU for Read to Me!

Thanks to Dexter's Subaru and Subaru Canada, Read to Me! will be receiving a brand new 2008 Subaru Legacy! In 2004, Subaru became the official vehicle sponsor for Read to Me! when they provided the program with a Subaru Legacy affectionately known as "The Readmobile." This support has helped Read to Me! transport thousands of books across the province and makes it possible for us to provide ongoing program support at all eleven provincial hospitals.

Read to Me! extends heartfelt thanks to Dexter's Subaru and Subaru Canada for the brand new 2008 Readmobile, and for providing a literacy *Legacy* to the children of Nova Scotia.

New Book Selection 2008

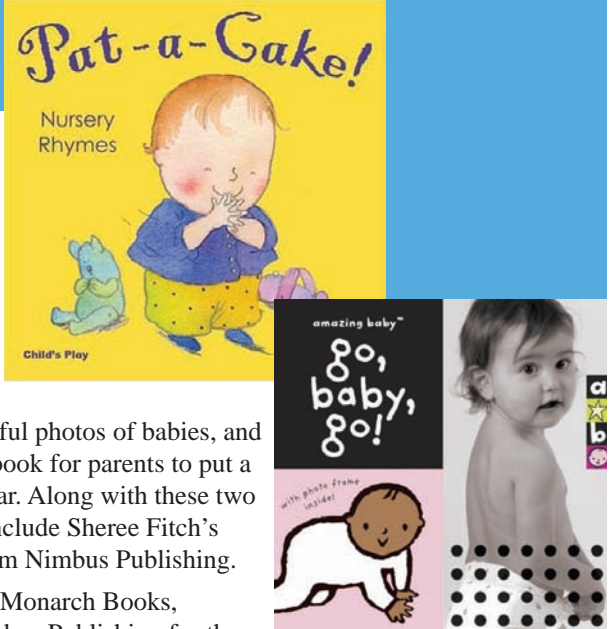
Read to Me! is committed to providing families with the very best board books for babies. To ensure we are providing the best and newest books, our book selection committee, a team of experts in the field of children's literature and development, meets every few years to review new books. Our committee uses a book selection policy to ensure the books are developmentally appropriate and culturally inclusive.

The committee looks for books with good rhyme, rhythm, and repetition in the text, books that encourage loving interaction between parent and child, books that have bright colours, and books that are culturally inclusive.

This year the committee looked at a large number of books submitted from publishers across Canada, the United States, and Britain. From these we have selected two wonderful new titles

for the Read to Me! bag. *Pat-A-Cake*, published by Monarch Books, is a delightful collection of nursery rhymes illustrated by award-winning artist Annie Kubler. *Go, Baby, Go!* is part of the "Amazing Baby" series and has bouncing language, beautiful photos of babies, and a place at the back of the book for parents to put a photo of their own little star. Along with these two new books, we will also include Sheree Fitch's *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!* from Nimbus Publishing.

Read to Me! is grateful to Monarch Books, Raincoast Books, and Nimbus Publishing for the generous discounts they have provided for these new books. This powerful partnership helps ensure that all babies in Nova Scotia come into the world with the gift of books.



A Bigger Better Bag

In 2006, Read to Me! worked with a team of researchers from the IWK Health Centre to measure the uptake of the program. We wanted to find out what happened to the Read to Me! bags once they left the hospital - were families using the books, were they listening to the CD, were they connecting to their public library? Over 1,000 families were contacted and generously provided information on how they were using their Read to Me! bag and books.

We were thrilled to learn that 92.6% of families were using the books in the bag, and enjoyed reading to their baby. There was very positive feedback on the quality of the books in the bag, and many families told stories of how they couldn't go anywhere without their Read to Me! books. Families told us they loved the books

in the bag but wanted more, more, more books! Families also requested more nursery rhymes and an expanded list of recommended books.

By putting research into practice, we have developed an exciting new bigger, better bag. The new Read to Me! bag will be slightly larger, as parents told us that a larger bag would be more practical for toting books to and from the library. In response to the requests for more books, the new bag will now have three beautiful board books. We will also be including an expanded list of recommended books, more information on reading development and tips for sharing books with babies. Finally, every new Read to Me! bag will have a beautiful cotton Read to Me! hat. Based on our research, we're confident that our bigger better bag will be a big hit for new families across Nova Scotia.

Congratulations!

Read to Me! is thrilled to congratulate book selection committee members Nicola Disney and Shanda LaRamee-Jones who were both expecting when the committee met.

On October 11, Nicola gave birth to Charlie Disney who weighed 10lbs and 8oz. Nicola, her husband Bruce and siblings Ben and Grace are delighted to welcome him to their family.

Shanda and her husband Darren welcomed Owen Campbell Jones to their family on October 26. Owen weighed 8lbs and 7.5 oz.

Welcome to the world young readers!

2008 Book Selection Committee

Carol McDougall
Director, Read to Me!!

Shanda Laramee-Jones
Provincial Coordinator,
Read to Me!

Tracy Lowe, IWK
Coordinator, Read to Me!

Michelle Gowans
Children's Librarian

Nicola Disney
Parent and Educator

Dr. Sarah Shea
Developmental Pediatrician



Greetings from the new Interim Regional Coordinator of Read to Me!

I was delighted to join the team in October of 2007 and will be with Read to Me! for a year during Shanda Laramee-Jones' maternity leave.

I was born and raised in Nova Scotia, in Clare on the South Western shore. I love this province, and I am excited to learn more about all regions from coast to coast. I especially look forward to visiting each region and meeting with Read to Me! partners this spring.

My background is in Library and Information Management and Graphic Design. I will be

putting these skills to good use during my time at Read to Me! with two special projects I have taken on during my term. I will lead the creation of a Mi'kmaq Read to Me! bag as well as the development and expansion of our website.

I am pleased to be part of this important vehicle for literacy in Nova Scotia and look forward to adding to the work being done by so many to build a stronger Nova Scotia through literacy.



Pamela Maher, Interim Regional Coordinator

South Shore Regional Auxiliary

Read to Me! extends our heartfelt thanks to the South Shore Regional Hospital Auxiliary, and Auxiliary member Mrs. Heather Evan.

Since the launch of Read to Me! at the South Shore Regional Hospital in 2003, Mrs. Evan has generously donated fifteen thousand dollars to support the program. The South Shore

Regional Hospital Auxiliary have voted to continue the support begun by Mrs. Evan and will be giving an annual donation of three thousand dollars to support Read to Me! at the South Shore Regional Hospital. Many thanks for your generous support!

Mrs. Evan explained "I was a preschool teacher for 20 years and have seen first-hand how important reading is to a child's development. I've always believed in the value of reading and think this initiative is a very positive way to encourage and promote early childhood literacy."

Each Read to Me! bag contains:

- Three high-quality baby books
- An invitation to join the library
- A resource booklet
- A CD of lullabies and nursery rhymes



Contact Us:

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We're online! readtome.ca

Founding Partners:



Vehicle Sponsor



Read to Me! is:

A provincial, hospital-based program developed to help families enrich their child's early years with books and reading.

We present parents with a bright yellow bag of books within 24 hours of the birth of their baby.

The program is delivered at the 11 hospitals in Nova Scotia that offer maternity services, reaching every baby born in the province.

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, Governor General of Canada

Honorary Chair: Dr. Richard Goldbloom, OC, MD, FRCPC

Honorary Spokesperson: Sheree Fitch