

**THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
Champions of Public Education Across Canada



# Welcome to Kindergarten™

January 2009

# Show & Tell

## Helping you make the most of Welcome to Kindergarten



I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. We have had a great autumn in the Welcome To Kindergarten™ (WTK) community and we are looking forward to 2009.

Welcome To Kindergarten now serves 75,000 families of public school children across Canada. We are expanding the program throughout the country with WTK now being available in nine provinces. This year we are also introducing pilot programs in Saskatchewan and Quebec.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue of the WTK Newsletter and read about what's new in the program. Please share this with other families you think would be interested in learning more about this wonderful program that introduces children to the wonderful world of learning.

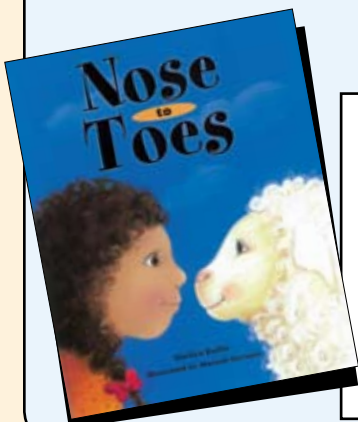
Veronica Lacey  
President and CEO, The Learning Partnership

## Ideas for Family Discussions when Reading Nose to Toes

In our first newsletter, Let's Talk Science provided some suggestions to help families encourage rereading *Nose to Toes* and make the science connections inherent in the book. Here are some further suggestions that will help children understand animal classification and animal adaptations. **Hint to WTK educators - put these ideas in your newsletter.**

**Animal Adaptations**     **The Right Stuff:** What does a cat have so that it can see in the dark? What does a bear have so that it can catch slippery fish? What does a chimpanzee have that lets it hold things when its hands are full?

**Animal Classification**     **Which is Which?:** Mammals are animals with fur or hair. How many types of mammals are in the book? Birds are animals with feathers. How many types of birds are in the book? Which animals are neither mammals nor birds? What type of animal are you?



### Early Science in the WTK Program and Resources



The Learning Partnership is pleased to announce a strategic partnership with Let's Talk Science to further expand the early science learning opportunities in the Welcome to Kindergarten program.

For more information about Let's Talk Science and their Early Year's Program Wings of Discovery®, go to [www.letstalkscience.ca](http://www.letstalkscience.ca).

## Conference Gems

### Let the Learning Begin Family Conference

North Bay - October 18, 2008

At the 2008 *Let the Learning Begin Family Conference*, interactive playful activities sponsored by local educators, agencies and entertainers enabled parents and children to take away with them a "toolbox" of resources filled with creative ideas for learning in the home, school and community

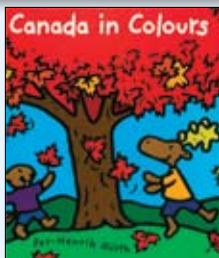
For an entire morning children 0 to 6 became musicians, scientists, artists, carpenters, authors, poets, cooks, dancers and so much more. With the guidance of workshop leaders, parents learned how to support their child's learning, growth and development across all domains in both official languages. Drummers and workshops featuring the legend of the dreamcatcher increased awareness of the aboriginal culture in the North Bay community. To name just a few, workshops were presented by Science North, Let's Talk Science, North Bay Symphony Orchestra, Home Depot, Discovery North Bay, the Indian Friendship Centre, Critters and Kids and many other community partners involved with children in the early years.

Participation by families exceeded all the organizing committee's expectations. Sincere appreciation is expressed to The Learning Partnership and all those who helped to make this exciting and unique event possible.



Please contact us if you would like to discuss developing a similar model in your community.

## 2009 WTK™ Books



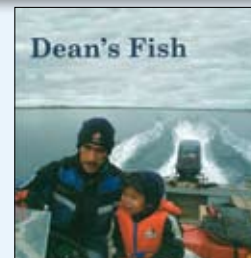
### Canada in Colours

A cross-country tour of Canada that introduces all of the colours of the rainbow and more.



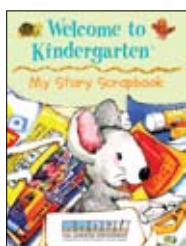
### Canada 1 2 3

Families will see and count from 1 - 10 as they visit many places across Canada.



### Dean's Fish (available for Aboriginal communities)

Dean and his cousin go fishing to catch some dinner for his friend Shavonne.



### NEW Project

### Welcome to Kindergarten My Story Scrapbook

A new resource for the WTK Orientation, developed with the publishing assistance of Pearson Canada. In this new book, the story of a WTK Orientation is told so the child and family can revisit their experiences and then do activities together that can be shown on the scrapbook pages.

*Stay tuned for details on how you can get involved!*

### Welcome to Kindergarten Program Team

**National** – Karen Rallis, Sue Rowan & Nilton Gaspar  
**British Columbia** – Patricia Shields & Barbara Claridge  
**Alberta** – Rosalie Bain & Pat Semeniuk  
**Manitoba** – Brenda Wedlake  
**Ontario** – Susan Langley, Gayle Kirsh, Jill Watson, Karen Cobb, Danielle Filiatrault

**Quebec** – Jacynthe Dallaire  
**Nova Scotia** – Berthe Dirren  
**New Brunswick** – Ghislaine Wheaton  
**Community Development** – Valerie Sterling

### The Learning Partnership

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