

## What is Family Literacy?

The purpose of Even Start is to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of low-income families through the integration of early childhood education, adult literacy, and parenting education into a unified family literacy program. Even Start is implemented through cooperative projects that build on existing community resources to create a new range of services.

Even Start is a federally-funded family literacy program (through Title I, Part B of the Improving America's Schools Act) administered in North Dakota through the Department of Public Instruction/Title I State Office. Even Start provides learning opportunities to families with children from birth through age 7. The program integrates early childhood education, adult literacy education, parenting education, and parent and child together time (PACT).

Family Literacy refers to a continuum of programs that addresses the intergenerational nature of literacy. Under the **Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998**, family literacy programs integrate

- 1) interactive literacy activities between parent and child;
- 2) training in parenting activities;
- 3) literacy training that leads to economic self sufficiency;
- 4) age appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.

The benefits to participating in a family literacy program include:

### **For Children:**

- Pre School Readiness
- Basic Concepts
- Elementary Education
- Writing
- Math
- Social Skills
- Physical Coordination
- Reading
- Critical Thinking
- Group Skills

### **For Parents:**

- Career Guidance
- Vocational Training
- Job Shadowing
- Parenting Skills
- GED/Diploma
- College Readiness
- Child Care/Transportation
- Computer Skills

### **For the Family:**

- Improved educational skills for parent/child
- Improved parent/child esteem
- Stronger family network
- The joy of learning together