

1. Toronto Public Library Welcome Letter

Welcome to Blast Off!

The Toronto Public Library is pleased to present the TD Summer Reading Club 2005, made possible through the support of the TD Bank Financial Group. This award-winning program runs to capacity crowds in libraries across the province and most of Canada. A team of children's librarians from the public libraries of Toronto, Ottawa and Montréal developed the theme and the materials for the program. The team has been working feverishly for the past few months getting this program ready. The first step was choosing the theme and the artist. This year's theme is space exploration and is entitled *Blast Off!* It was chosen to appeal to all children. Our illustrators are chosen through rigorous selection processes. Past illustrators have included such talents as Ruth Ohi, Heather Collins, Barbara Reid, and Andrea Wayne Von-Konigslow. This year, award-winning illustrator Ange Zhang has created our fabulous poster and stickers.

One of the challenges of the program has been to make the materials adaptable to libraries of any size. Staff are encouraged to bring their strengths and interests to this exciting summer event. The TD Summer Reading Club was specifically developed to allow libraries across the country to adapt the program to suit their community. The common element of the program has been that a child can visit any library and expect to receive a full-colour poster, a sheet of stickers and a logbook. In some locations the stickers are used as incentives: each time a book is reported on, a sticker is handed out. In other locations the stickers are given out all at once. Each sticker is placed on a given area of the poster, revealing something new. Branches decide how best to run the program given their staffing levels and the number of children participating. The materials have been designed to offer libraries of all sizes the greatest flexibility in delivering the program.

Included in this staff manual are forms, clip art, templates for activities and suggestions for running a successful reading club that branches can use with children throughout the summer. More can be found online at www.td-club-td.ca

We hope that you have a wonderful summer introducing the children in your community to the TD Summer Reading Club 2005, Blast Off!

Yours in Reading Fun,

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