

The Learning Team

Summer 2004

Raising kids for the fun of it!

Hundreds of easy and practical mom-tested activities for kids

The book *Raising Kids for the Fun of It!* is jam-packed with positive parenting tips and ways to add fun to everyday life. Written in sections based on the four seasons, this easy-to-use, entertaining collection of suggestions for activities and creative play will help build lasting family connections.

From homework to holidays, this book will help parents manage day-to-day issues and face challenges creatively. Over the past decade, the three Alberta authors, Gloria McInnis, Wendy Johnson and Heather Tansem, who met through a moms' group, have discussed challenges and ideas, and helped each other solve problems and celebrate triumphs. After every success, they said, "We ought to write a book," so they did.

The six different categories in the book—"Family Fun," "Focus on Learning," "Positive Parenting," "Family Discussions," "Organized Living" and "Party Time"—are marked with icons for easy identification, and each offers excellent suggestions for enjoyable family activities. Here's one suggestion from "Family Fun" that helped turn one situation around: "One night everyone seemed a little 'off.' That



As part of the workshop "Fostering the Home-School Partnership," sponsored by the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, authors (left to right) Gloria McInnis, Wendy Johnson and Heather Tansem invite participants to play "Guess My Identity." Names are attached to each participant's back. That person then asks yes-or-no questions to determine whose name is on their back.

evening for dinner I served dessert first and simply said, 'It's backwards day.' Such a simple idea changed the atmosphere in our home instantly." The "Focus on Learning" section offers this idea: "I was pulling my hair out one evening because the kids just couldn't get settled into their homework—one was looking for an eraser and the other for some pencil crayons. Pretty soon they were fighting over the only ruler they

could find. That was it, enough time wasted! We put together a homework basket so all the supplies would be in one handy location. One small idea has impacted how we do our homework every day."

Lori Runzer, radio talk show host and director of A New Day Begins, a family training and counselling facility, had this to say about *Raising Kids for the Fun of It!*: "Inspired by love, these three Moms have set out to

create an environment rich with activity and creative play. To understand the importance of intentional interaction is to accept the role of a purposeful parent."

To order copies of *Raising Kids for the Fun of It!*, request a workshop or share an idea, contact the authors by e-mailing authors@raisingkids.ca or visiting the website www.raisingkids.ca.