



## LITERACY AND READING

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# Literacy x (TL + Motherhood) = Literacy Plus!

## Diana Maleszewski

*How has becoming a parent changed me as a teacher-librarian?  
Here's a glimpse. Warning: true confessions ahead!*

I have been fortunate enough to spend most of my teaching career in the library. I love being a teacher-librarian. The variety in grades, people, and assignments, the huge number of great books and resources to purchase and read, and the chance to help students and staff excel are some of the elements that make this role so enticing to me.

In addition to this job, I hold another position with poor pay but incredible benefits – motherhood. My husband James and I have two children. Mary has just turned five years old and Peter is two years old. They are amazing, attractive, intelligent, and charming children, and I am NOT saying that just because I gave birth to them.

### Using my children as tools

I have to admit that I have used my children as tools for promoting reading and research. It's not as bad as it sounds. For instance, the grade 6 students in my last school were studying space and I happened to mention that Mary knew a lot about the solar system. To make a long story