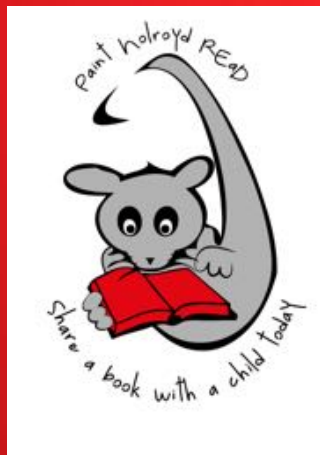


Enhancing Early Literacy Practices in Early Childhood Services



Authors: Jane Hayden & Gaye O'Donohue

Why do we read?



Ways of Thinking about Literacy

Sharing and making meaning
with images and texts

- Listening
- Drawing
- Speaking
- Reading
- Viewing
- Writing
- Critiquing



- * Every day texts
- * paper-based texts
- * Oral texts
- * Digital Texts
- * The arts
- * Texts of popular culture

“You can find magic wherever you look, sit back relax, all you need is a book”

The MORE
that You read,
the MORE things
You will know.
The MORE that You
Learn,
the MORE places You'll go.



- Dr Seuss



How Holroyd Early Childhood Centres enhance literacy



EYLF learning Outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity
- Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
- Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

Learning Centres

- Block corner
- Home corner
- Book corner
- Play-dough
- Sandpit
- Craft area
- Garden space
- Technology space
- Outdoor space
- Writing centre



Use of literacy in learning centres

Maps , books, pens and paper , signs , number cards



Literacy in Learning Centres

Hats with names ,

books in all areas

Keyboards , calculators

Baskets with pens , paper rulers

Food boxes , newspapers in other languages



Literacy in Learning Centres

Seed packets
Garden books
paper, pencils,
clip boards



Literacy Bags

Are used by children to bring literacy items (books, tickets, maps, photos) in from home to talk about them with their peers.

This is not “show and tell” but more about sharing and expanding on that interest and going on a learning journey together.



Literacy Bears



Jack Bear

Red Bear



Literacy Bears



- These bears travel home with a different child each week for an adventure.
- The parents write a small entry about what their child has done with the bear and photos or a drawing can also be added.
- This can be done in English, as well as the families home language.
- The child then recounts what they did with the bear while they were visiting the child's home.





















Literacy Backpacks

- These backpacks consist of a journal for the child to contribute to – either with drawings or writing, pencils and case, stencil that has the NSW handwriting fonts and stickers.
- These backpacks go home with a different child each week to encourage the child's writing and then to share with the centre once it returns with the child



Families Reading Together Backpacks

- Aimed at the multicultural families in the community. Books in the child's home language are to go home in a backpack to encourage reading. The child is then encouraged to draw about it in the journal.
- Also aiming to target children's behaviours and emotions by having a range of books related these topics
- Funding has been applied for to expand the number of children's books available in different languages and children's books about emotions and feelings
- The centre aims to empower families, build confidence and to support the establishment of increased literacy at home and in the local community



Families Reading and Cooking Together Backpack and Sustainability Backpacks

- These backpacks encourage the families to cook, garden and participate in sustainable practises.
- These packs include garden and cooking storybooks books, recipe books, journals to document, and writing implements
- Aids in sharing with the community and exchanging recipes with families in their homes



“Children are made
readers on the laps of
their parents”

Emilie Buchwald



Parent Literacy Networking Groups



- Parents are invited to join their children for a great literacy experience. Parents often read during these groups in their own languages.
- These are held once a month
- These groups give us the opportunity to work closely with families and allow them to network with others.
- These groups help build their confidence and skills with literacy development for their children. It encourages them to read daily as a family.



Bedtime Stories... What the bears got up to after hours...



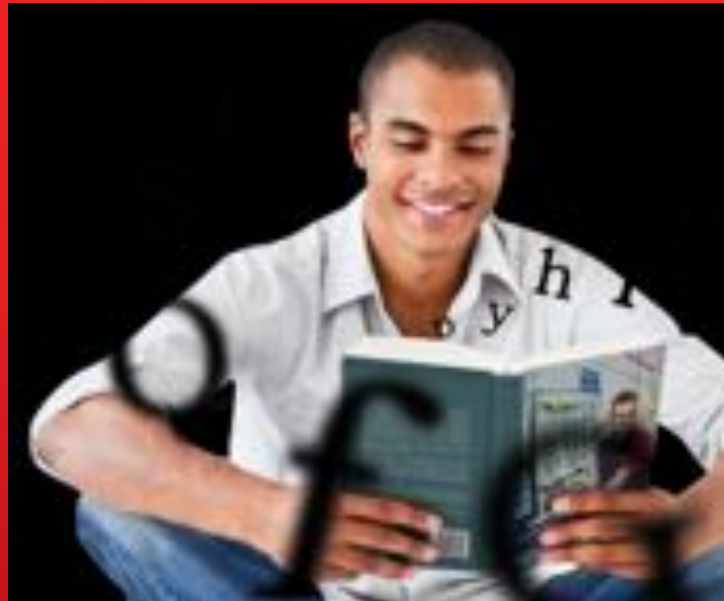
Holroyd Council library

- The centre invites the librarians to the centre to read stories to the children – this is a free service
- In addition they can include a visit from Poppy.
- The centre has walking excursion to Merrylands library to participate in story time
- The library is free to join and should be promoted to your parents, as a simple means of encouraging them to read to their children.
- Our library has a Poppy Club for children to join and they send out a monthly newsletter to the children and families about upcoming events.



“Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body”

-Joseph Addison



Holroyd REaDing Challenge

- Centres across Holroyd LGA have taken part annually – combination of Council, community and church centres
- The challenge is to see which centre can read the most books during a 3 month period – combining staff and family tallies.
- The Champion Centre receives the PHR REaDing plague and a visit from Poppy the Possum
- The challenge for families is to read together a minimum of 20 books
- All centres and families receive a “Certificate of participation”



Holroyd Reading Tree

3 August

- During August the Holroyd Reading Tree “grew” peaking for Book Week
- Centres, Council and the library were all given the leaves to distribute to families
- Great response with over 1000 leaves
- Many children have visited the tree to find their leaf and to have a photo in front of it!
- Was promoted in The Holroyd Sun newspaper



31 August

How do we get the message out across Holroyd Early Childhood centres



- Centres get regular emails about what is happening with PHR, such as the reading challenge, reading tree
- Holroyd Educators United meetings is another opportunity for centres to be updated about what is happening
- Media – Council's webpage and Facebook page, articles in local papers

Other ways we promote literacy

- Books are given from the centre to the children for Christmas and Birthday
- Poppy's book collection are in all the Council centres and given to children throughout the year
- Community Reading Day in October



Where to for the future?

Poppy's Perfect Partners

- Retirees
- Parents
- Primary school children



“I really had a lot of dreams when I was a kid, and I think a great deal of that grew out of the fact that I had a chance to read a lot”



- Bill Gates

Belonging, Being & Becoming

- **BELONGING:** is the basis for living a fulfilling life
- **BEING:** is about living here and now
- **BECOMING:** is about the learning and development that young children experience
- This is supported through the happy playful, enjoyment of literacy and books.

We now challenge you to motivate the child care centres in your LGA to extend their literacy programs by including ideas presented today.



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