



Let's Read is a national, evidence-based early literacy initiative that promotes reading with children from birth to 5 years old.

Let's Read was developed by the Centre for Community Child Health at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and The Royal Children's Hospital, and is being implemented in disadvantaged communities across Australia by The Smith Family.

The program is designed to empower families to read with their children from birth, and does so by engaging a range of professionals who interact with families to build the capacity of parents and caregivers to support emergent literacy skills in their children.

Why Let's Read?

There are documented links between literacy and self-esteem, school performance, health outcomes and adult life chances. However almost half of Australians over 15 years of age lack the literacy skills they need, and poor literacy levels disproportionately affect children from socially disadvantaged homes.



1 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013) 4228.0—Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, Australia, 2011–2012. Preliminary Findings. Released 15/02/2013. Retrieved from <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/Lookup/4228.0main+features?92011-2012>

2 Australian Government (2013). A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia 2012—Australian Early Development Index National Report, Australian Government, Canberra.

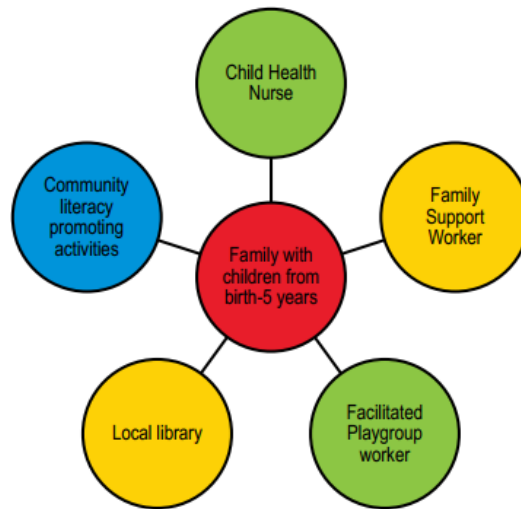
Research demonstrates the best way to equip children for their future is by helping them build a solid language and literacy foundation *before* school. Let's Read has been developed to support emergent literacy skills in disadvantaged young Australians, and aims to equip children to make the most of their education and discontinue the poverty cycle.

For more information, see http://www.letsread.com.au/getmedia/67cf0461-3ca4-4ab5-8462-278fe2a41f1a/CPR_Vol_13_No_1.pdf.aspx.

How does Let's Read work?

Let's Read's key messages and resources are delivered to parents and caregivers by a range of professionals in community settings (see below).

These professionals are well placed to deliver Let's Read because of their existing, trusting relationships with families. Health professionals in particular can have connections to some of the most isolated and vulnerable members of the community.



Let's Read is designed so that its messages and resources can be meaningfully delivered to families during brief interactions with service providers.

As a collective and over time, the Let's Read-trained professionals deliver and reinforce the elements of the Let's Read community program during their interactions with families, including discussing emergent literacy, modelling the engagement with the child and showing and delivering resources to the family.

The evidence-based Let's Read resources have been developed in partnership with early literacy and early childhood experts, and provide practical information to families to support them to share books, stories, songs and nursery rhymes with their children from birth.

These resources are available in a number of languages other than English. Resources for indigenous families are available, developed in partnership with Honey Ant Readers.

On completing the Let's Read training, professionals receive resources and children's books that they then provide to families.

For further information

For further information, or to register your interest in attending a Let's Read, half-day training, please contact:

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The Australian Government is working in partnership with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and The Smith Family to deliver Let's Read.

Project partners:



Affiliated with:



Let's Read is a registered Trademark of both Murdoch Children Research Institute and The Smith Family

www.letsread.com.au