


# Active Storytime

Title	Active Storytime	
Date	Term time throughout 2023	
Location	Fridays 9:30am in the Pirrku Garden at Evanston Gardens Library during school term.	In the case of inclement weather, the program will be moved indoors into the library and modified if necessary.
Description (blurb for promo material)	<p><b>Come read, play and make in the Pirrku Garden: a place for families to connect with activity.</b></p> <p>These sessions are a mix of storytime and playgroup. We will read and play stories before making a craft. Your children's language, social and motor skills will all grow as we explore themes with a variety of activities. Aimed at 3 - 5 year olds and their carers, all youngsters are welcome.</p>	
Info for staff	<p>Each program consists of a storytime literacy component (1 – 2 age appropriate books on the theme, 2-3 rhymes, fingerplays or action songs, and 5 minutes for adult and child to share a book together). The activity component of the program consists of an activity and craft on the theme. Each session begin with <i>Hello, hello can you clap your hands</i>, and finishes with <i>If you're happy and you know it</i>.</p>	
Staffing	1 person per session	
Resources Requirements	Program to be created that can be repeated annually with the addition of new titles	
Audience	Children aged 3 – 5 and their adult carers. Siblings and children outside this age range are welcome.	
Rationale	<p>To provide an opportunity to play the stories and demonstrate that what we read has applications in everyday life and can stimulate imagination, creativity, community connections, and encourage skill building. Playing together, adults and children not only encourages the development of literacy and language skills but also person wellbeing as children gain competencies and are seen as worthy of being characters in the stories around them.</p>	
Budget	<p>The creation of the Pirrku Garden and the purchase of range of early childhood resources has been funded by the Department of Education's Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant administered by the Local Government Association of South Australia. Additional purchases of consumables used in craft and program creation are funded by the Gawler Public Library's program budget. Most crafts will make use of in house materials and once purchased, activity resources (such as the paddling pools) can be used for multiple programs. Resources supplied by PLS and Inspiring SA for the Little Bang Discovery programs are also used in a variety of Pirrku Garden programs.</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 \$24.90 Drakes shopping for craft consumables Annual Membership of the Elsie Ey Toy Library \$65</p>	<p><i>The Story Garden project has received funding from the Department of Education's Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant administered by the Local Government Association of South Australia. Views and findings associated with this project are expressed independently and do not necessarily represent the views of the Government of South Australia or the Local Government Association of South Australia.</i></p>

<b>STATISTICS</b>	Average of 8 attendees (adults and children) per session.	
<b>REVIEW</b>	<p>Towards the end of 2022 the library had a series of special storytime events that received much better attendance than our regular storytime sessions. It seemed that the community perception that these were special one-off events increased their desirability.</p> <p>.When we were reviewing the low attendance numbers of this program, we felt there were several contributing factors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) We were targeting too narrow an age range, 2- 5 year olds. We suspect that many children this age are in childcare as financial pressures see parent return to work. And by giving an upper age limit we were not being inclusive of homeschooling families.</li> <li>2) While we had deliberately made the time 9:30amd so that it tied in with school drop off, most of our participants arrived later than this time and were often happy to stay in the garden or library through til midday, treating the program more like a playgroup than a storytime session. Oral feedback suggested that a later time would be more convenient for many.</li> <li>3) Presenting the program as a series on Eventbrite didn't allow us to promote the varying themes easily. By running each program as a separate event, we can retain the branding of the program and alter the backdrop image to offer each as a fresh new event. Feedback from parents of the adjacent school showed that our promotion wasn't getting through, as some remained unaware that we ran children's programs.</li> <li>4) As each program has songs, fingerplays, stories and then a variety of activites and a craft component, there is a substantial amount of set up and pack up to each session. Attendance numbers need to increase to warrant 30 +minutes on set up, a 45 – 60 minute program that invariable ran longer as people arrived late and enjoyed staying longer, and a 30 minute plus pack up depending on activity.</li> <li>5) Feedback and observation told us that the program was being well received by those that attended. We were getting quality interaction between children and between children and adults. Children were observed singing the songs from earlier in the session whilst playing with the activities provided. Children asked questions of the presenter and parents about the topics, and made suggestions about future activities and themes. Children worked together to tell stories using story stones and other props, expanding their social skills and literacy skills. Parents commented that the activities were age appropriate and well thought out.</li> </ol> <p>"The mini scarecrow activity was very age appropriate. Just that little bit challenging but achievable." (Ari's Mum 14/4/23)</p> <p>We have a workable program but need to find a way to better promote it and encourage attendance. Term 2 will see the program move to a 10:30 timeslot on the first Friday of each month. We will reassess at the end of another term.</p>	