

Let's Read Community Story Botany Family Day Care

After having implemented the Let's Read Program into our Service last August, which included training for staff and on-skilling our Family Day Care Educators, collectively we began to reflect and brainstorm ways in which we could further incorporate community involvement into our educational campaign regarding the importance of early exposure to language and literacy for our children.

Collaboratively the Service decided to become owners of a Street Library Box. Street Library boxes are libraries that are established to be accessible to and utilised by the local community, 24/7! Books come and go; no-one needs to check them in or out. People can simply reach in and take what interests them. When they are done, they can return the books to the Street Library network, or pass them on to another interested community member.

Our Street Library box was unveiled in March of this year. Our library houses quality early childhood literature as well as Let's Read 'Tip Sheets' in aid of 'spreading the word'. Our library has also been registered on the Street Library website advertising its location and marketing our early childhood educational focus.

Our current primary clientele are our Family Day Care Educators and their children, as they frequently visit the Coordination Unit, swapping, replenishing and enjoying our Library's resources. However the Street Library Box has also been a great conversation starter with visitors to the Service, allowing for organically facilitated "check in" opportunities.

Botany Family Day Care feels quite confident that our investment into a Street Library will assist in raising the profile of the Let's Read program, resulting in greater awareness of the importance and necessity of early exposure to language and literacy for our children.

