

# Reading to Children Case Study

November 2016  
Bridgwater/Gagebrook  
Community



everyone's family

## Introduction

Vanessa has two young boys, Darcy aged 3 years and Nate, aged 2 years.

She was introduced to **Let's Read** a couple of years ago when she started going along to the **Little Mob**, an early years program at **tagari lia Child and Family Centre, Bridgwater**.

Vanessa participated in a successful pilot program, involving a small group of Mums who trialled a small **Let's Read** Community Lending Library for families with children aged 0-5yrs. She said "the **Let's Read** resources have helped to give them a solid start, eg. saying their first words. Vanessa was very proud that Darcy's interest has continued to help him grow his pre-literacy and numeracy skills". **Old MacDonald and Brown Bear Brown Bear** and **Hairy Maclary** are a few of their favourites.

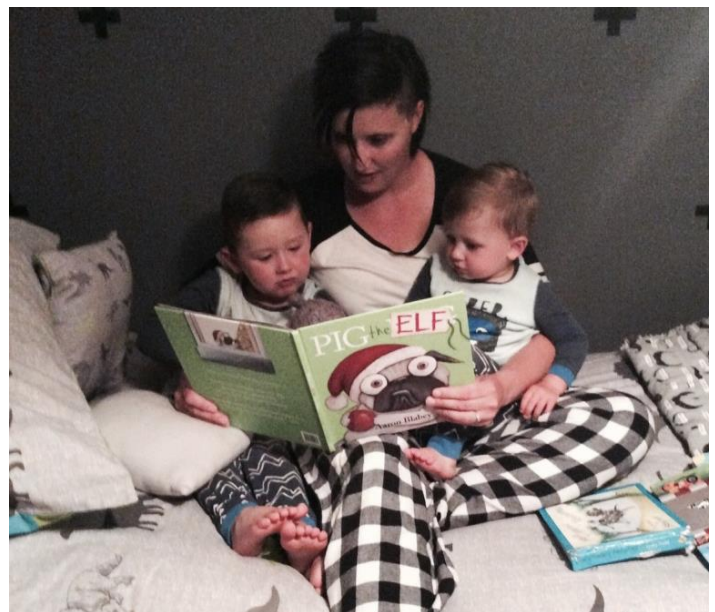
## Further Family insights

Vanessa says she doesn't really have any early memories of books and didn't really enjoy reading books at school. She started sharing books with her children from a young age, initially just sharing only one page at a time.

Her eldest son was very active and didn't spend a lot of time sitting down in the one spot, he loved being on the move and exploring, so initially Vanessa said she needed to simply,

*"Follow his lead, looking at one picture on each page briefly, sometimes just sharing one page per book, to gradually looking at more pages...."*

*"I just had to be very patient and just go with the flow and respond when he was interested. We did this routine together every day."*



## Stories, songs and rhymes in our home & community

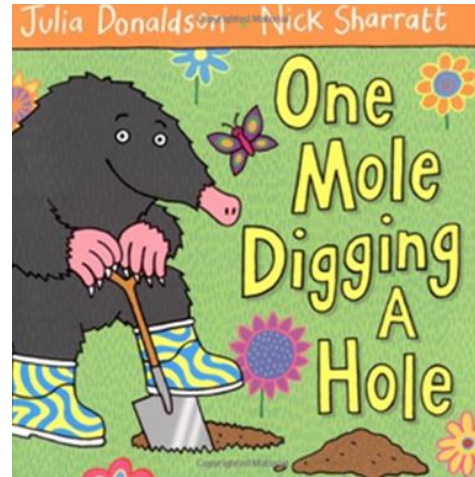
Vanessa said initially her boys had four favourite books at home, which they'd received as gifts from family and friends, including 10 Little Racing Cars and Farmer Jack goes to the Farm. *"These books helped my children learn their first words. Darcy would ask me to read these books with him over and over. He even memorises the words, and enjoys the challenge of racing to respond to questions I ask him....where is the... what colour is.....what sound does it make....how many can you find...".* Vanessa says *"Nate really enjoys repeating the animal names and sounds she makes, and pointing to the pictures."*

Vanessa and her boys are members of the local Bridgewater LINC and she mostly uses library books regularly with her children.

## Benefits to our family

Recently, Darcy received his **3 ½ year Let's Read Resource pack**, which contained the counting book, **One Mole Digging a Hole**. Vanessa was really pleased, as she'd noticed Darcy seemed really interested in counting and identifying numbers.

Vanessa had also borrowed this resource as a part of the Community Lending Library and inside it, was a set of 'number cards' to use as a story prop. which Darcy really enjoyed playing with when reading the book.



Vanessa obtained some laminated copies of the cards from the Aboriginal Community Liaison Worker, Jodi at the Child & Family Centre, so she could continue use them on demand, to respond to and support Darcy's numeracy development.

Vanessa, says her children's interest in reading and sitting with her to share books has increased significantly. She says she has also been pleasantly surprised by her boys interest in reading books, as the stories they are currently reading together are the **Winnie The Pooh Collection**, a series of five books. The pictures are more and the stories are much longer and are fairly complex for children of their age, but says *"Darcy really loves them!"*. Vanessa and her family all now prioritise purchasing books as gifts for their children's Birthdays, Christmas and even Easter. Vanessa says

**"Now, I love reading with my own children....I just love it".**

**For further information contact:**  
[andrea.garland@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:andrea.garland@thesmithfamily.com.au)  
[www.letsread.com.au](http://www.letsread.com.au)