



Welcome to a Speech Pathology Australia Speechie Library Talk



Australian Library and
Information Association





What are Speechie Library Talks?



Speechie Library Talks are an initiative of Speech Pathology Australia in collaboration with the Australian Library and Information Association.

They aim to support you with strengthening your child's language and literacy skills.

Let you know how speech pathologists support language and literacy development.

And, tell you about the resources available at your local library.





What is a speech pathologist?

Speech pathologists support children and adults with literacy, language, speech, voice, swallowing, and fluency difficulties.

We work with families to help them achieve their goals and advocate for their needs.

Our role in literacy is important, as reading, writing, and language skills are linked to each other and are essential for participation in every day activities.





How do speech pathologists help?

Language skills provide the foundation for literacy.

Speech pathologists play a vital role in developing children's **SOUND AWARENESS** (understanding of sounds) and language skills.

Speech pathologists assess, diagnose, and support people with language difficulties, working to facilitate a healthy transition to literacy.





Why is literacy important?

There are strong links between good listening, understanding, and speaking skills and the successful acquisition of literacy.

Language difficulties in preschool may predispose a child to ongoing reading difficulties throughout childhood and adolescence.





Why is literacy important?

Reading and writing are essential for participation in everyday life activities.

Strong literacy skills are linked to:

- academic **achievement** at school
- higher **qualifications** after school
- long-term **quality** of life.

Reading books with your child now can help set them up for success with mastering literacy.





Ways to help build language and literacy

Let's talk through **3 ways** you can support your child's language and literacy while reading a story:

- choosing books
- encouraging interactions
- keeping reading a fun part of every day.



3-5
year
olds

Choosing books

To maximise the learning opportunity, we want to read books that support interaction and learning of new words.

We can do this by using:

- picture books with a short story
- books with a couple of sentences per page (rather than labelling books)
- books that include words that your child hears regularly in conversation and less common words (such as astronaut).



5-8
year
olds

Choosing books

Your child is starting to read! The books you choose can support your child's reading development.

Start with books that use short and simple sentences.

Include words that your child can sound out:

r-u-n j-u-m-p c-l-a-p

Include words that your child cannot sound out:

was have said

As your child gets closer to 8 years old, choose books with longer sentences and less familiar words.



3-5
year
olds

Encouraging interactions

- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Talk about the pictures. You can discuss how they are similar, or not similar, to your child's life.
- Point to the words as you read them.
- Talk about the sounds in the words.
- d-o-g **dog**, it starts with the 'd' sound and ends with the 'g' sound.
- Re-read books over and over and over again! This helps your child to learn the words and make the connection between the letter names and sounds.



5-8
year
olds

Encouraging interactions

Discuss new words and uncommon words.

Here is an example:

Tremendous, I wonder what **tremendous** means? Let's re-read the sentence to help us work it out. **Tremendous** means something is very good.

Ice-cream is **tremendous!**

Ask your child what has happened in the story and what could happen next, or why something is happening and ask him how he knows this information.

When you discover an unfamiliar word, talk about whether you can **sound it out** or whether you need to use the sentences before and after to **work out the meaning**. Remember that not all words can be sounded out.





Keeping reading a fun part of the day

- Make reading part of an everyday activity, i.e., same time every day. Examples: **after dinner; after bath time; before bed time.**
- The more you read the more predictable it will become. This helps children to learn what will happen and also what they need to do.
- Make it fun! Use silly voices, act out some actions (knocking on the door), and use intonation to add emotion to the words you are saying.
- Aim to read for 10-15 minutes, but only read for as long as your child is engaged and enjoying the activity.





My child is already reading!

It is an exciting stage when your child can read predominantly on their own!

- Encourage them to keep reading and ask them to read in different situations.
Examples: shopping list, street signs, instructions.
- Keep reading with your child! Even though your child **can** read she can **still learn from reading with you**.
Read books that are just above her reading level so that you can scaffold her learning.





My child speaks multiple languages !

- Encourage your child to keep reading and speaking in multiple languages.
- Look for books that have more than one language.
- Let your child code switch (swap between languages) as often as he wants to. Some words are better understood in one language compared to another.
- If you are reading a book in one language, talk about the pictures or ask questions about what you think might happen next, in your child's other language/s so that you use both/multiple languages while reading.



3 to 5 What skills are typical at this age?

The preschool years are an exciting time as children start making sense of the world, their thoughts and feelings, and learning that others can have different thoughts and feelings.

Some important language and literacy milestones for your child are:

- using 3 word sentences at 3 years of age (I want ice-cream)
- following multiple-step instructions (Put your bag away and wash your hands)
- looking you in the eyes when talking (eye-contact)
- understanding that the words in books have meaning
- looking at books from left to right, depending on the language/s that your child speaks, and the right way round (not upside down).



5
to
8

What skills are typical at this age?

Your child has started big school and is learning to read! As your child develops their reading skills you will notice an increase in their vocabulary along with longer sentences.

At this age, children:

- know the letter names and the sounds they make
- can sound out regular words such as: **f-i-sh m-i-l-k d-r-o-p**
- can read some common irregular words, that cannot be sounded out such as: **is are what**
- are starting to apply spelling rules, such as the magic '**e**' that turns short sounds into long sounds.



Communication Milestones Chart

Speech Pathology Australia has developed a Children's Communication Milestone Chart to help identify each of the language and literacy milestones from 12 months to 5 years old.



It is free to download from the Association's website:
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/milestones



What if my child is having difficulties?

- Speech pathologists are here to support you and your child.
- It is best to refer early.
- If you are unsure to refer or not, contact a speech pathologist, and we can talk through your concerns.
- Have a look on the Speech Pathology Australia website.
- Use the **Find a Speech Pathologist** link on the Speech Pathology Australia website and/or contact your local community health centre.

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/find

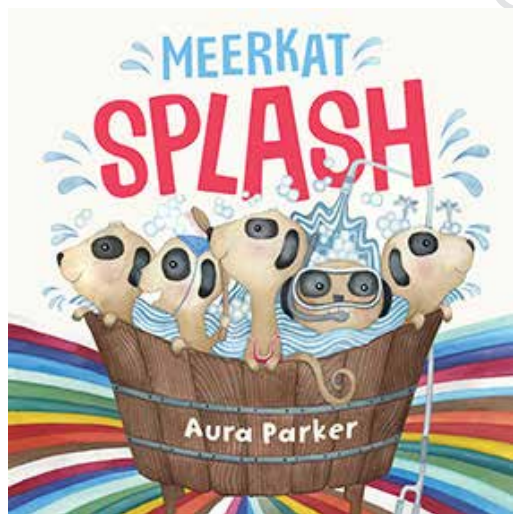




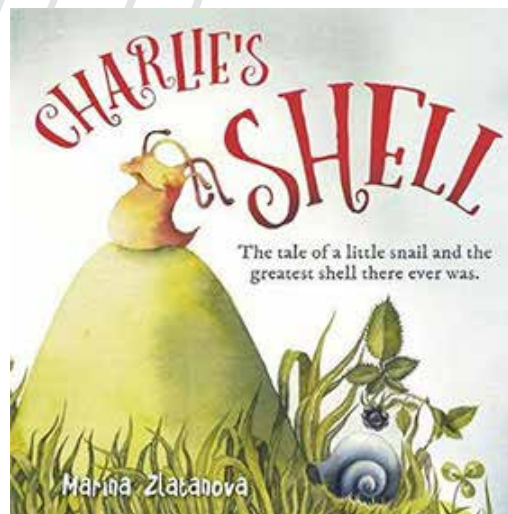
Book of the Year Winners!

Each year the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards recognise the best books that support language and literacy development in four age-related categories.

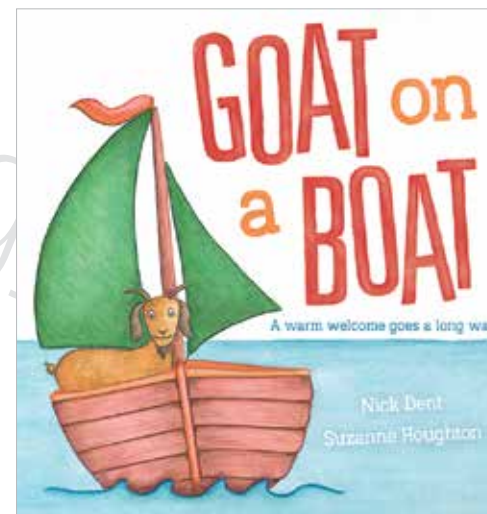
**Birth
to 3**



**3-5
year old**



**5-8
year old**



**8-10
year old**



www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/books

How your librarian can help

Librarians have a wealth of knowledge about books.

Ask your librarian for support with choosing age appropriate books.

Ask your librarian for support with finding books about topics that are interesting for your child (such as space, or animals, or ancient worlds).

Ask about the opportunities to attend activities that promote literacy (such as StoryTime).

Ask your librarian if they run programs for children during the school holidays.



Find out more

You can find out more about how to support your child's language and literacy development by visiting the Speech Pathology Australia website under the '**Resources for the public**' tab.

There you will find fact sheets and more information about what a speech pathologist does and seeing a speech pathologist.

To find a speech pathologist in your area visit:
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/find.





Thank you for being
here to learn more
about building
children's language
and literacy.





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Pathology
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BOOK OF THE YEAR
awards 2020
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