

ATTACHMENT A

POTENTIAL LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAMME

Children

Children's services are of paramount concern to the community. The Richmond Public Library, Vancouver acknowledges in its successful Speak-Read-Succeed programme that the best indicator of a child's success in school at age 18 is the strength of their language skills when they enter school at age five.

Encouraging children's literacy begins at birth. Parents of children need to be educated on developing the child with reading and interactivity from birth.

Programmes to develop literacy and literacy habits which could be run by libraries include:

1. Bookstart

This programme reaches out to parents as soon as their child is born. While most literacy programmes reach people who have developed literacy skills and will pass these onto their children, Bookstart programmes reach all parents at a stage where everything is new to them and they are at their most willing to help their children to develop.

A Bookstart programme involves a partnership with infant health clinic nurses. The nurse would provide a library kit to new mothers including information on early development and suggestions for parent involvement in the development of skills related to each phase. The kit would include a gift certificate which the mother brings to the library to redeem a book gift for the child. This enables the child and mother to be introduced to other information resources and services such as storytime.

Funding would be required to produce the kits including the book gift.

2. Storytime held in external venues

While a large number of children attend playgroups before pre-school age, the main skills acquired are social and gross and fine motor skills. Literacy skills are addressed only in an ephemeral fashion.

By conducting storytime sessions at external venues such as shopping centers, day care centers, womens' refuges, and play groups the library is offering an extension programme which will enthrall the children. Such events will also entice the parents to bring their children to the library for further access to library resources and continue their child's literacy development.

Funding would be required for materials and marketing. It may also be appropriate to employ storytellers to conduct sessions.

3. Multicultural storytimes

In recognition of the increased ethnicity within the City of Joondalup, LOTE/English storytimes would provide a link between ethnic parents and formal literacy programmes available through the Western Australian education curricula. It would

also provide children from an ethnic background with a head start that their parents may not be able to offer them. It is also important to encourage parents to continue to develop their mother language skills in the child.

Funding may be required to engage a storyteller if a volunteer is not available as well as to market the programme.

4. Ready-Set-Read

The programme target is to encourage school age children to read for 20 minutes a day for 30 days, earn a book, and enjoy reading for recreation. Ready-Set-Read involves parents as reading coaches.

5. Parent education programmes

The library could develop a programme to present to the community of new parents on a 3 or 6 monthly basis using the theme of “teach your child to read”.

Funding would be required for marketing purposes and possible guest speakers.

6. Children’s Newsletter

A monthly children’s newsletter (colour) could be sent to all childhood centres and early education centres. This newsletter would have a combination of up to date programmes, good reads, reading tips for parents, puzzles for kids, and some interesting web links. The newsletter could act as a forum to share information on what some of the centres are doing which may be literacy based. This project could also encompass other Council programmes.

Funding would be required to cover production costs.

7. Story times at different levels

Baby and Toddler storytime: (or “rhyme time”). A session where very simple, short story books may be read supported by puppets, rhymes and songs.

3-5 year old Preschooler storytime would be an interactive session, using more complex stories and lots of “props” such as felt boards, puppets, chalk boards, and NOISE! It would be appropriate to conduct at least two session of each level per week.

Funding would be required for the storytime sessions to purchase resources.

8. A “Mum’s Meeting Place”. This programme could be described as a literary based playgroup. The mothers run the group where they read stories and use library props and facilities. This could represent an extra storytime however it would not supported by staff resources.

Funding would be required for the storytime sessions to purchase resources.

9. Global Reading Challenge

Based on the Seattle “Global Reading Challenge” this programme is a “battle of the books”. School teams from years 4 and 5 read the same 10 books then compete in an atmosphere of teamwork and competition. Members are not necessarily the best readers. School librarians pick the teams and members share the workload. The programme gets 10 titles into schools and markets the range of literature available. It creates an atmosphere of excitement, with a trophy being at stake. The programme involves over 1000 children each year and extends over 3 months. The books are put into classrooms just before the Christmas break then the competition begins in March. Organisation in schools varies but it brings energy to reading programmes.

Funding would purchase a trophy, cover the challenge event costs, support a coordinator to work with the schools and undertake marketing.

10. 10 Year Olds Class Reading Sets

Class visits to libraries generally include a tour of the library and introduction of resources. This proposed reading session targets 10 year olds. The library provides 6 copies of 6 books and a staff member reads excerpts from each during the visit. Each child then chooses one of the titles to take away and read. Such a session has many benefits - the children have some choice in what appeals to them, it supports the curriculum and is a joint programme with the education sector.

Funding is required to purchase many sets of books which is not possible from the current resources budget.

11. Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader targets the more advanced reader to keep them stimulated whereas most school programmes are remedial.

Funding would address additional resources, programme development and marketing.

Teenagers and Adults

Recent discussions with the TAFE Read Write Now programme co-ordinator considered existing programmes as well as information brought back from the study tour by the Manager Library Services. There is much potential for joint projects if funding were available.

1. Family Literacy Week

A week of events including evening storytime for the family and a Breakfast of Champions.

Funding would enable employment of a co-ordinator to seek sponsorships.

2. Read Write Now Volunteer Tutors

The Read Write Now tutor programme, already in Council libraries, could be extended. At present Council provides only space for tutors to meet with clients. The service does not have the funding to supply back up resources. For example a CD ROM to assist learning English as a second language or for adult literacy skills could be kept in the library and used by various tutors during their sessions. There are also

in excess of 2,000 internet literacy sites many offering downloadable resources, however, volunteer tutors do not have the funds to cover printing of these.

3. Adult Literacy Workbooks

New adult readers and their tutors require customised library literacy workbooks to assist their library based sessions. These workbooks would provide library usage skills to assist future independent visits.

Funding would cover production of the simple workbooks.

4. Student to Student

There may potential to develop, extend or build upon the Smith Family Student to Student programme which at present is telephone based.

The manner in which funding would be utilised would need to be discussed further with Read Write Now and the Smith Family.

5. Summer Vacation Book Camp

Based on a similar programme conducted at the Vancouver Library which provides an exciting week long day camp of 10 sessions on a range of fun reading/writing topics with 150 children per session. The demand far exceeds places. Fees apply with 20 scholarships being offered.

Although the camp is self funded it is very staff intensive so funding would be required in the first instance for a Coordinator to develop the programme, negotiate with presenters, seek possible additional grant funding or sponsorship and undertake marketing. It may also be appropriate to employ some high school students to assist in the running of sessions.

6. Teen "READiscover your world"

Based on the Seattle Public Library teen program 'READiscover your world' aims to stimulate this target group with drawcards such as basketballers, creative writing workshops, kickboxing, rap and lyric writing, henna body art and robots. The programme offers a lot of appeal to keep youth interested in reading.

Funding is required to resource the sessions.

7. Online Literacy Programmes

Development of online literacy programmes would be accessible to all community members including an increasing number of home based parent schooling programmes.

Funding would enable temporary contract staffing to develop the programmes.