

Shared Book Reading Program

INFORMATION SHEET



What is the Shared Book Reading Program?

The Shared Book Reading Program is a program for parents and carers of children who would like to build early book sharing communication opportunities. The program was originally developed to support preschool autistic children, but can be helpful to any family looking for additional support with book sharing.

A speech pathologist will work directly with the parent or caregiver and use video feedback and modelling to encourage early language skills during book sharing in home environments.

What does the research say?

It is estimated that between 30-60 per cent of autistic school-aged children struggle with reading. Research highlights the importance of sharing stories together for the development of literacy skills.

This Shared Book Reading Program, which was developed by researchers at Griffith University, was found to support early spoken language and emergent literacy skills for autistic preschoolers. The main findings were:

- Parents/caregivers and their children engaged in book sharing for longer
- Parents applied specific strategies to support vocabulary learning and story structure
- Children became more talkative and used a wider range of words during story sharing



What is the time commitment?

The program is delivered fortnightly across 6 sessions weeks. This includes his includes pre and post programme assessment, a parent training session and 4 fortnightly video coaching sessions between the parent/caregiver and speech pathologist. The program can be delivered via telehealth or face-to-face sessions depending on family preference and need and takes 9 hours in total to deliver.

The parent/ caregiver will share the same book with their child four times a week at home, applying the program strategies. They will video one session to be shared with the speech pathologist. This video will be reviewed with the speech pathologist during the fortnightly session and a home plan will be developed.

Who is the program suitable for?

The program is suitable for:

- children with or without an autism diagnosis
- children who can attend to a book for approximately five minutes
- families who would like to support their child with early book sharing and core-literacy skills

Can my child receive this program at the same time as other interventions?

Yes, this program can be delivered alongside your child's other therapy supports.

How can I get involved?

If you would like to register your interest or access further information, please contact us:

clinkids.reception@thekids.org.au | (08) 6319 1133