



Community partnership on the Gold Coast

Read and grow strategy

The research literature across many disciplines irrefutably advocates the benefits of parents engaging with their children in storytelling and book related activities. The benefits are many, ranging from enhanced emotional engagement, to improved oral language and vocabulary development as well as positive school or literacy outcomes.

With these facts in mind the Lifeline Northern Gold Coast Communities for Children (C4C) Initiative (funded by FACSIA - Stronger Families and Communities Strategy) engaged the help of a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and Early Childhood teachers to develop the *Read and Grow* program for parent based community hubs and child care centres across the growing suburbs of the Northern Gold Coast.

The program provides interactive and engaging storytelling sessions for parents and their young children with follow up activities on a weekly basis over a four to six week period. It offers an opportunity to model successful approaches to story telling and reading to parents and their young children. It also incorporates critical emergent language and literacy strategies that ensure the experience is enjoyable and educational.

In 2006 the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) library service was approached to become a community partner with the C4C project. The aim of this partnership was to support literacy skills and raise the profile of the library services to a growing region of young families.

The *Read and Grow* program's strength lies in its ability to be delivered by facilitators with a variety of training and employment backgrounds within a strong research framework and the structure of the program enables facilitators to support parents and young children (target age 3-5 years) across a range of skills critical for the development of emergent literacy.

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ALIA Research Awards

Nominations are now being called for the following research awards of the Australian Library and Information Association:

- **Study Grant Award**
- **YBP/Lindsay & Croft Research Award For Collection Services**
- **Twila Ann Janssen Herr Research Award For Disability Services**

Nomination forms and further information:

<http://www.alia.org.au/awards/>

ALIA National Office
PO Box 6335, Kingston 2604
awards@alia.org.au 02 6215 8222

Nominations close 2 June 2008

National Simultaneous Storytime 2008 Wednesday, 21 May 2008 at 11:00am



We are thrilled to announce that *Arthur* by Amanda Graham and illustrated by Donna Gynell, is this year's National Simultaneous Storytime book! Telling the story of Arthur the dog and his quest to find a family, the book won the UK Children's Federation Award in 1985 and was shortlisted for the CBC Awards.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is a wonderful opportunity to promote your library; highlighting the value of reading and literacy and the value of books while encouraging storytime activities in public libraries around the country.

Invite your local celebrity or politician to read aloud at your library.

Dress-up, or organise a themed party! The options are only limited to your imagination!

Registration available online

For more information on National Simultaneous Storytime, visit <http://www.alia.org.au/advocacy/storytime/2008/>