



Sharing Stories: Using Story Box Library within the Early Years Learning Framework

About Story Box Library

Watch celebrated children's stories read aloud by dynamic Australian storytellers on Story Box Library (SBL). As a trusted, safe and ad-free online platform, SBL is a complementary educational resource, designed to capture young children's attention and encourage a lifelong love of reading!

SBL's digital storytelling platform is a positive inclusion to planning and practice in early childhood education, supporting diverse learning styles. We deliver the magical experience of being read aloud to, helping children engage with books and develop the skills they need to communicate and read with confidence.

SBL connects children with literature through film, providing a vibrant, interactive experience and featuring diverse storytellers. Our Short Films introduce children to the creative process and inspiration behind stories. SBL gets kids excited about reading, inspires their imaginations and facilitates fun and learning with stories!

SBL features rich vocabulary, text structures and language devices in our growing library and world of stories. Designed to suit children of various ages and abilities, from preschool through to upper primary years. Storytellers are chosen to ensure a diverse range of voices, ages, gender and backgrounds are represented. Children can immerse themselves in a magical storytelling world with relatable characters and narratives, expanding their understanding of the world.

A creative, educational and fun platform developed for children to improve their literacy and language skills.



FOSTERING A LOVE OF READING THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Access a virtual bookshelf of stories.

SBL helps educators ignite a love of reading, developing language and literacy in the early years. Whether teaching to a particular theme or concept, or you need a story to fill a specific slot of time, SBL's user-friendly design makes finding stories easy. Stories can be searched via age group suitability, theme, series, author, award and more.



Using technology to build digital literacy skills.

The ECA Statement on young children and digital technologies advocates for children to use a range of digital devices for exploration, meaning-making, collaboration & problem solving in early learning settings.

SBL is a useful teaching tool to help children learn ways to use technology and develop essential digital literacy skills by accessing information, exploring diverse perspectives and investigating ideas to make sense of their world (Early Years Learning Framework [EYLF] for Australia, Learning Outcome 5.5). It can be viewed on a tablet, laptop, app or interactive whiteboard, helping promote digital literacy learning and communication skills through co-viewing multimodal (integration of images, written words and sound) stories.

SBL helps early childhood educators address The Australian Professional Standards for Teachers by integrating ICT (information & communication technologies) into teaching and learning programs, using engaging, relevant, and meaningful content (2.6.2 Standard Descriptor).

Additional educational resources for each story provide inspiring curriculum-linked experiences to encourage further investigations through play-based learning.

“Joint media engagement involves children, peers and/or adults participating in digital activities together, for example co-playing games and apps, co-viewing or co-listening to digital content... where children can ask questions, put forward ideas and receive feedback from adults and other children”.

*Early Childhood Australia (ECA).

A SAFE AND TRUSTED PLATFORM SUPPORTING DIGITAL PLAY

Supporting digital play.

By using digital technologies and multimedia resources intentionally and strategically with children, educators can enhance play and learning in traditional contexts.

Watching and/or listening to picture books being read aloud on Story Box Library can:

- Enhance exploratory play with other hands-on materials through construction, the creative arts and STEM
- Scaffold learning about a particular concept or topic of interest
- Help children access information to foster critical thinking skills
- Inspire deeper discovery through inquiry-based learning projects
- Inform complex pretend play narratives



Children can listen to stories individually on listening posts or in storytelling zones.



Digital play “involves children engaging in many combinations of activities using a range of digital and non-digital resources, either by themselves or in collaboration with others.”

(ECA Statement on young children and digital technologies)



HELPING EDUCATORS PROMOTE LEARNING AND CURIOSITY

Supporting children's EYLF learning outcomes.

SBL's digital collection of picture books gives children windows into other experiences, beliefs, people and more, helping them connect with and understand the world around them.

Using picture books as an intentional teaching tool (**EYLF Practice 4**) can help educators actively promote children's learning by sparking their natural curiosity, thereby provoking questions and further investigations in early education settings.

Using picture books to inspire learning through play, supports children in developing:

- **EYLF Learning Outcome 1:** Children have a strong sense of identity
- **EYLF Learning Outcome 2:** Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- **EYLF Learning Outcome 3:** Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- **EYLF Learning Outcome 4:** Children are confident and involved learners
- **EYLF Learning Outcome 5:** Children are effective communicators

Language and literacy learning outcomes

Picture books encourage children to use language and creative play to imagine, express ideas, and make meaning by creating roles and scripts through narratives.

Encouraging children to make up their own stories or retell favourite picture book stories supports early language and literacy development.



SUPPORTING PLAY-BASED LEARNING ACROSS EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM



Dispositions for learning: curiosity, confidence, enthusiasm & imagination.



Language, literacy, and effective communication skills.



Connections and relationships with peers, educators, family & community.



Social and cultural diversity.



Creative arts: drawing, painting, sculpture, drama, dance, movement, music, and storytelling.



STEM: Science, Technology, Mathematics & Engineering.



Emotional wellbeing and sense of identity.



Sustainability and the natural environment.



IGNITING IMAGINATIONS FOR SCREEN-FREE PLAY

Teaching and learning across the curriculum.

SBL ignites young children's curiosity and imagination, helping educators facilitate follow-up screen-free, play-based teaching and learning across the early childhood curriculum.

Joint media engagement by viewing stories together helps children build important relationships with teachers, family and peers. Login details can be shared with families for home use to further strengthen the home/school partnership. Children can also discover more about the creative processes used by illustrators and authors via Short Films.



Easy navigation with clear visual book cover images, enables children to choose books of interest independently, thereby developing a sense of agency. SBL's wide selection of stories explore a range of social and emotional behaviours.



SBL's extensive stories library introduces children to quality literature that represents family and cultural diversity in Australian society. Educators can help 'children respond to diversity with respect' (EYLF Learning Outcome 2.2).



SBL features both fiction and non-fiction stories on a wide range of topics, supporting children's understanding about nature and the interdependence between land, people, plants and animals (EYLF Learning Outcome 2.4).



SBL's multimodal stories connect children to literature through film. This engaging, interactive medium helps develop important dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, creativity, enthusiasm and imagination (EYLF Learning Outcome 4.1).



Multimedia stories can inform complex pretend play narratives that children enact within early education settings. Educators can scaffold further learning by helping children express ideas and make meaning about stories through the creative arts.



Co-viewing and/or co-listening to SBL helps children develop effective communication skills by engaging with multimedia texts. Our read-aloud picture books showcase the joy of language, developing key literacy understandings.



Stories are carefully selected to engage children's interest in STEM. Educators can intentionally use these stories to encourage the development of skills and processes such as inquiry, researching & investigating (EYLF Learning Outcome 4.2).



FOLLOW-UP FUN AND RESOURCES



Activity Time

SBL Activity Time encourages children to discover and learn by going beyond the book. Educators and families can access follow-up teaching and learning ideas related to key themes, characters and concepts featured in each story. These extension ideas help children connect to the story and support their development of EYLF Learning Outcomes through play-based learning, across the curriculum. Fun and engaging learning experiences are categorised in the following areas:

- Play
- Outdoor & Nature Play
- Exploring & Experimenting
- Art & Creativity
- Family Games
- Cooking
- Digital Creation
- Writing
- Craft



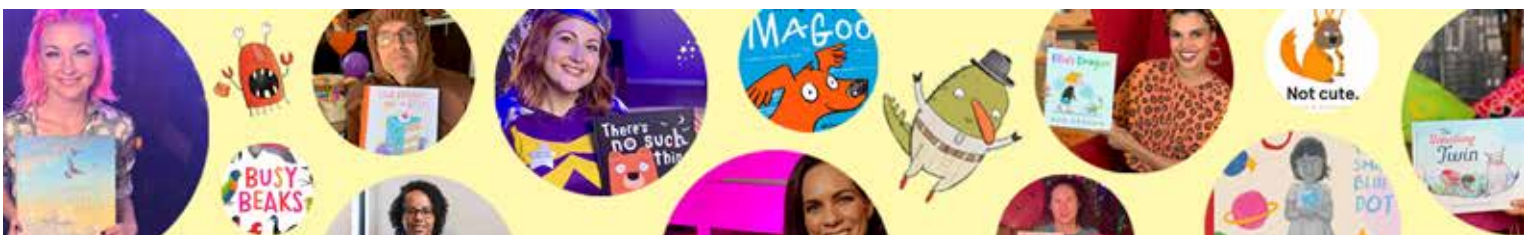
Indigenous Story Time

SBL's Indigenous Story Time brings together some of our most talented Indigenous authors, illustrators and storytellers to share their stories, helping children develop an understanding of First Nations' voices, histories and rich cultures.



Auslan and accessibility options

SBL improves accessibility to diverse stories and storytellers, assisting with language, learning and social development for all children. With a diverse digital collection including key titles with Auslan translations, thanks to a successful grant from Telematics Trust, and features such as closed captions and playback speed, SBL provides access to all.



CBCA Book Week

SBL partners with national literacy associations such as the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA). New themed resources are created each year to support and celebrate CBCA Book Week.

