



# STAVERTON KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

# SK news

TERM THREE AUGUST 2021

keeping you up-to-date with everything kindy!

Dear Staverton families,

We begin this Term 3 newsletter by acknowledging the Yuggera people and their Elders, past, present and emerging. They are the traditional custodians of the land on which our kindy sits on, and we recognise the important responsibility we all have in caring for our land.

Term 3 have been a whirlwind of a time, especially for the local community affected by the latest COVID outbreak. Plans change but our strong fundamentals have helped to keeps things together. It has been great to see how the kindy has adapted and faced into the challenges brought upon us. Thanks also to the kindy community for all your support.

In this edition, we reflect on these challenges and highlight some of the things that will help us forge a stronger path ahead.

Editor

## Highlights in this edition:

- Messages from the Nominated Supervisor and President
- Activities Spotlight
- Educational Sharing's
- Upcoming and Past Events (and Pictures!)
- and many more...

## Important Dates:

- TBA - UQ Speech Development Screening Program visit
- TBA – Parent Teacher Catch-Ups
- 17<sup>th</sup> Sept – End of Term 3
- 23rd Oct – Parents Gala
- 27<sup>th</sup> Nov - End of Year Party

## MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATED SUPERVISOR



Well, I started my director's report a week ago and have come back to it and so much has changed in that time. It is hard to believe all the activities we had planned for the children and families in the

coming weeks that will now need to be put on hold. Though it is disappointing I have been so impressed with how the staff, children and families joined together as community to make the most of lockdown. I guess we need to be aware that this may happen again and have the confidence that we know that we can do it. The children have seemed to cope well with the adjustment to staff wearing masks for the whole day which is fantastic! I will continue to keep you updated on the directives and advice given by the government in relation to COVID-19.

### **Stay up-to-date on COVID**

Please stay [COVID safe](#).

For the latest information on [border restrictions](#), [interstate hotspots](#), [contact tracing](#), symptoms of COVID-19 and when to seek medical advice and prevention visit the [Queensland Health](#) and [Australian Government](#) websites.

The health and safety of staff and children at Staverton is a priority. As directed by Queensland Government guidelines, if your child develops any of the following symptoms, no matter how mild, they should get tested immediately:

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny Nose
- Fatigue
- Vomiting/nausea
- Diarrhoea
- Loss of smell/taste

If your child is experiencing these symptoms, please ensure they do not attend kindy. Children who show these symptoms at kindy will be sent home immediately. For medical advice, contact your GP or 13HEALTH (13432584). Further information can be found at the Queensland Health website.

### **Staverton SMS system**

Early this term we implemented a new SMS alert system. If your child's primary contact did not receive a text letting you know about the lockdown please contact Donna [admin@staverton.com.au](mailto:admin@staverton.com.au). I'd like to thank Rahul (secretary) for helping us to roll out this new system that can be utilised when required.

### **Program**

All groups started the term by celebrating NAIDOC week. These celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We were so lucky to sneak in our VIP days before the lockdown and allow the children to share their kindy space with a person special to them.

We are so excited to be implementing our new smartboards into our kindy programs. Thank you so much to all that supported the Welcome Breakfast, Movie Night and grant application for the Lord Mayor's Community Fund Grant which enabled us to purchase these for the children.



We look forward to Science week where we have a science focus.

Book Week is coming up where the children are invited to come to kindy in their pyjamas and share their favourite book. During this week we will take part in the Premier's Reading Challenge with the children. Research shows very young children involved in daily activities, such as reading together, storytelling, singing and sharing rhymes will have better vocabulary, language and cognitive skills by the time they start school. We look forward to continuing to highlight the importance of reading to young children during this challenge.

### **Class Books and Portal**

We love your input so please continue to add comments and ideas to our class books and your child's portfolio.

### **Parent Teacher Catch Ups**

Parent teacher interviews will start soon. These may need to be in a zoom or telephone format. We will keep you posted as to what they will need to look like once we are given further information from the government.

### **Transition Statements**

The transition statements for the children going to school will be available to parents in early term 4. Your child's class teacher prepares these statements. The transition statements summarises your child's interests, skills and abilities and provide individual approaches and teaching strategies that will assist a positive transition to school. The transition statements also have a section for families to complete. These statements can help schools when working out which class to place your child into.

### **Staff**

Staff continues to ensure that they are learning new skills and understanding about early childhood education and development. Most staff took part in the Early Childhood Teaching Association conference over the holidays. We are also scheduled to complete LGBTIQ+ awareness and inclusion training presented by Equal Space. This will be postponed until we can complete it face to face.

Well-being is imperative for all of us to function at our best ability. This term the staff are taking turns to be in charge of our Wellness Wednesday. The team have been finding different ways to brighten and highlight the strength of our team mates. I thank them for taking on this initiative with such enthusiasm.

### **Grievance**

Please be aware that if you have a grievance with the kindy that we have a policy in place. It can be accessed in the office or you are more than welcome to make a time to see your teacher or myself. Communication is always the key to solving issues.

### **Enrolment**

We have a couple of spaces available for 2022 so if you know of any families looking please get them to contact Donna.

### **Blog**

Thanks to Ali (Webmanager) we now have a blog on our website which shares snippets of our facebook page. Please feel free to check it out.  
<https://www.staverton.com.au/blog>

### **Useful Links**

Recent uncertainty about the pandemic affects everyone. We think a lot about how to explain and support children during this time, but sometimes forget to acknowledge the effects on our own mental wellbeing. There are some great resources available online. Information about child protection can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/>

<https://www.napcan.org.au/about-us/>

Children's brains are built over time and the early years provide important foundations for future learning. We all sometimes need support to help build the strongest possible foundations.

The Raising Children website has some really great resources for parents of children of all ages.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

### **Family Survey**

The family survey will be going out in the second half of this term. We really appreciate you providing us with feedback that helps us to continue to improve.

### **Thank you**

The fundraising team have refunded all tickets purchased for the Family Fun Day as we will not be able to go ahead with this event under the latest restrictions. The fundraising team will focus their energy now on the Gala and Christmas celebration. I thank them for all their continued hard work and to the small businesses and families that have been preparing stalls we thank you and hope that we can include you in our end of year celebration.

### **End of Year Gala and Christmas Party**

Don't forget to put into your calendars the end of year party on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November and the Adult Gala on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

**Kate**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support during the lockdown period. Thank you for keeping your children home. We know it was tough but we really appreciate your patience and understanding while keeping

our community safe.

A huge thank you to the teachers and staff! These legends have worked so hard to create loads of fun activities, videos and content for our kids. I hope you have all enjoyed sharing some of these with your children. I know the teachers missed your kids during the lockdown and I'm sure they are thrilled to see them back in the classroom!

The committee was devastated to have to cancel the Family Fun Day. The Fundraising team have worked so hard to bring all the elements together and it would have been the most fabulous day. Thank you so much to you ladies!

We are very excited that each class finally has a new interactive whiteboard screen. They are such a great addition to the classrooms. The kids and the teachers are loving them, they add such a fun element to learning and will make presentations so much easier. Thank you to the Lord Mayors community fund and to all who supported the welcome breakfast and movie night.

We have successfully implemented a bulk SMS text messaging service and you should have all received

your first text from Staverton. Never fear - your phones will not be ringing constantly - this will be a great tool for getting messages to you all quickly should the need arise. A relevant example would be to give details regarding a lockdown or during an emergency etc.

The committee is working on obtaining quotes for a complete playground makeover, a kitchen renovation and an office renovation. We are hoping to get these jobs underway over the Christmas holidays.

We have also approved the expenditure to purchase two new flagpoles for the kindy. Once these are installed, we will be able to display the Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag and the Australian flag.

Save the dates have been sent out for the Gala on 23rd October - please lock this date in your calendars and organise babysitters. This is the annual, adults only night to celebrate our beautiful kindy and is always a fabulous bash! If you or someone you know would like to donate a prize for the silent auction, or offer sponsorship for the event then please get in touch with Amy on the Fundraising team [fundraising@staverton.com.au](mailto:fundraising@staverton.com.au).

The committee is still looking for an appropriate replacement for Kindy Portal so stay tuned. And we are excited to announce that we are aiming to pilot a vacation care during the September holidays, with details to follow.

I hope the rest of term 3 is smooth sailing for all and that your kids continue to love coming to their kindy to learn and play.

**Carrie**

## **STAVERTON FAMILY**

### Teaching Staff

#### **Staverton Kindergarten – Unit 1**

**Educational Leader/Teacher:** Kristy Coombs

**Teacher:** Margarita Chercoles

**Educator:** Mina Kevat

**Educator:** Lee-Anne Harvey

**Educator:** Robin Smith

**Teacher:** Judy Ford

**Educator:** Mina Kevat

**Educator:** Angela Strickland

**Educational Leader/Additional Needs Educator:**  
Kristy Coombs

#### **Staverton Kindergarten – Unit 2**

**Nominated Supervisor/Teacher:** Kate Beutel

#### **Staverton Kindergarten – AKHC**

**AKHC Coordinator:** Genevieve Border

**AKHC Assistant Educator:** Lily Wilson

### 2021 Committee

#### **Executive Committee and Approved Provider**

**President:** Carrie Grassick

**Vice President:** Harriet Bodimeade

**Secretary:** Rahul Nair

**Treasurer:** Eric Sengstock

#### **General Committee**

**Fundraising Team Leader:** Amy Anderson

**Fundraising Team:** Danielle Tyley, Danielle Reisener, Jade Matheson, Elizabeth Elmes, Cassandra Rich, Kate Vedelago, Melissa Stoddart, Erica Ryan, Amy Morze, Prue Duff, Kellie Lawrence

**Marketing and Communication:** Mary Vu

**Web Manager** Alison Nugent

**Maintenance:** Richard Blanch

**Grounds and Gardens:** Anastasia and Nick Kostellar

**Workplace Health & Safety:** Ashleigh Pain-Geddes

**Newsletter:** Loke Meng Wong

**Staverton series:** Olivia Taylor

**Community Engagement:** Kate Blumke

**Quality Officer:** **Open (We need you!)**

**Grant Officer:** - Renae Bourke and Clare Lavrencic

#### **Non-Committee Roles**

**Grocery Shopping:** Michelle Murphy

**Garden Watering:** Prue Barnard & Nina James

**Books Maintenance:** Kellie Lawrence & Kelly Grady

**Photographer:** Rahul Nair

**Deck Maintenance:** **Open (We need you!)**

#### **Class Reps**

**Gungun:** Melissa Billiau and Georgia Bilad

**Walan:** Kellie Knight

**Kabarla:** Michelle Murphy and Anna Finlayson

**Gwarla:** Jade Matheson and Danielle Reisener

## ACTIVITIES SPOTLIGHT

### Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Updates

#### Aboriginal Learning

*This term we are working on making the 8 ways of Aboriginal learning more visible for parents within our documentation and program with direct links in our project books and daily reflections.*

*This Aboriginal pedagogy framework is expressed as eight interconnected pedagogies involving narrative-driven learning, visualised learning processes, hands-on/reflective techniques, use of symbols/metaphors, land-based learning, indirect/synergistic logic, modelled/scaffolded genre mastery, and connectedness to community.*

*This term as a team we are reflecting on this question (Working on connecting children's experience at kindy (child driven) authentically with Indigenous perspectives).*

*This week the children are interested in ..... and we embedded an aboriginal prospective by....*

*Example with the interest in the Olympics can we embed an aboriginal prospective by learning various aboriginal games as well as learning about the indigenous athletes who are representing Australia at the Olympics.*



### Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) Updates

Thank you so much to those that have offered ideas and thoughts into our QIP. We love working with you to continue to improve our practice. Remember that our QIP full document is in the office for you to peruse and add to at any time. We have new term reflection questions up on the verandahs to seek your advice and input on children's relaxation songs and stories.

Last terms question focused on how we enhance families understanding of culturally different ways of learning and knowing? We have reflected on these suggestions and will continue to focus on learning different language greetings, as well as keeping connections with indigenous elders to share their stories and knowledge. Thank you for all your input.

On your verandah our new QIP question is there for you to answer...

#### QA 2.1.1 - Wellbeing and comfort

- Does your family listen to music while relaxing? Share your favourite calming tune...

#### QA 2.1 3 - Healthy lifestyle

- Share with our Kindy community your child's favourite healthy snack...

We could join these together and share with our Staverton families.

### **Insights: COVIDSafe @ Staverton**

#### **How does Staverton creates their COVIDSafe plans for events:**

All Staverton events must comply with COVID Safe Event Guidelines and the relevant committee member must complete a COVID Safe Event Checklist prior to the event. As COVID restrictions and guidelines reflect the COVID cases of the day, Staverton must adhere to the advice from QLD Health and Lady Gowrie. If the event is able to go ahead, the fundraising committee in conjunction with WHS Officer must formulate plans to adhere to the following:

1. Maintain Occupant Density and Physical Distancing

2. Screening
3. Facilitate Contact Tracing
4. Regular and Thorough Cleaning
5. Hand Sanitiser and Hand Washing Facilities
6. Face Masks

The WHS Officer must also complete a risk assessment for each event. While this is standard practice, risk assessments must now include provisions for COVID associated risks.

#### **How Staverton creates their COVIDSafe plans for ongoing operations:**

To ensure the safety of all Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians, Lady Gowrie provides Staverton with regular COVID procedural updates which Staverton can implement at their discretion. For example:

- Pick and Drop off limitations
- Mandate of face masks
- Using sanitisation stations
- Ensuring children do not attend Kindy if unwell or have returned from a hotspot.

These procedures are adapted by Staverton and communicated to all parents. The WHS Officer will implement all COVID guidelines into relevant risk assessments (Incursion/Excursions).

## Sponsorship Updates

### Staverton Toy Club

We are proud to partner with our local favourite, Bim Bam Boom to set up the Staverton Toy Club. This will give Staverton family and friends a discount on selected items each month and also give Staverton a discount on products using a special discount code.

Your purchases will also help Staverton to raise funds for children resources.

Be on the lookout for our first items in the promotion soon!

**STAVERTON  
TOY CLUB!**

Introducing the Staverton Toy Club, an exciting new partnership between Staverton Kindergarten and local favourite, Bim Bam Boom. Bim Bam Boom is a family owned toy store that offers a great range of educational toys and games from birth to tweens.

Each month Staverton families and friends will be offered exclusive discounts on selected products. Your purchases will earn Staverton fundraising dollars which we can use to buy fantastic resources for the children. Be sure to follow our Facebook page to be the first to in the know.

**Launching in September!**

**Bim Bam Boom**  
Educational Toys and Games  
[www.bimbaboom.com.au](http://www.bimbaboom.com.au)

**48 PIECE JUMBO FLOOR PUZZLE**

**SEPTEMBER OFFERS: PUZZLES**

**SNEAK PEEK**

## *Sustainability Working Group Updates*

Mrs Robin has made the exterior of bug hotels for each of the classes to start work on making bug hotels for our playground.

You may have also noticed the pipes in the veggie patches. These were put in as there was too much waste going in for the worms to digest. These pipes can be filled with veggie/fruit compost. The pipes have lots of holes drilled in them and this allows for normal worms to move through and the nutrients from the decaying matter to seep out and enrich the soil.

We are also changing the wording on the kindy supply purchase list so that only biodegradable plastic bags

are purchased in the future. A special bin for soft plastics is on Group 1 verandah now. Group 2 sent home all the soft plastics with the children so no bin was needed. We continue to encourage families to not bring in soft plastics to kindy.

Whenever renovations that include light fittings will be done, the use of LED lights instead of fluorescent is a much better option even though the initial cost is more. The Grants team have also submitted applications to try and retrofit all current fittings to LEDs.

## EDUCATIONAL SHARING'S

### Pre-Writing

**I will learn to write  
 but first I need to...**

**Imagine**  
 Making up stories when I paint and create will help me to write

**Build**  
 I need to use my fingers independently to write

**Scribble & Draw**  
 Making marks and shapes to convey my message will help me to write

**Manipulate**  
 Using paintbrushes, crayons, pencils and pens will help me to write

**Climb**  
 I need strong arm and body muscles to sit up and write

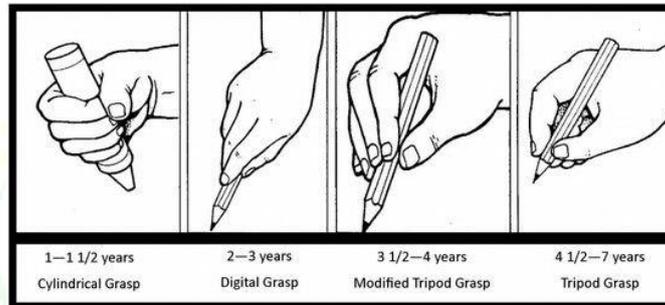
**Play with letters & words**  
 I need to be interested in letters and words to write

**... and I need someone to show me how important writing is every day!**

© 1999 Learning Power Series  
 www.kidzworld.com.au

3 of 4

## Pencil Grip Development



The development of young children's grasp is influenced by their growing interest in objects and desire to hold them.

These images are an indication of the development of grasp. All children will develop these skills at different ages.

## Finger Isolation

Finger isolation is an important stage in the development of grasp. It is our ability to move certain fingers apart from the rest of the hand/fingers.

When children begin using their hands, all fingers move together at the same time. As they grow and develop, they gain the ability to move individual fingers.

It helps with being able to do up buttons, hold and control a pencil for drawing and writing, cut with scissors.

This is a great song to help practice their skills, I am sure you or your child has sung it.

### **Five Green, Speckled Frogs**

Five green and speckled frogs (hold up five fingers)

Sat on a speckled log,  
 Eating the most delicious bugs,  
 Yum, yum! (rub tummy with other hand)  
 One jumped into the pool (tuck one finger down)  
 Where it was nice and cool,  
 Then there were four green speckled frogs,  
 Glub, glub!

Four green and speckled frogs...  
 (Continue until there are no speckled frogs on the log).

Many more songs and ideas can be found on sites like these:

<https://childhood101.com/15-preschool-counting-songs-fingerplays-rhymes/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS





play discover grow

**STAVERTON**  
Kindergarten

**NEW DATE!**

play discover grow  
**STAVERTON**  
Kindergarten

Presents an Information Night on

**Getting Ready  
for Prep!**



**Stacey Thomasen**

Deputy Principal  
Sherwood State School

**Stacey Palmer**

Senior Occupational Therapist  
O.C.C. Therapy

Now on: Wednesday 1 September 2021, 6:30-7:30pm

Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 842 6152 4086, Passcode: 727348)

Cost: Free!

## PAST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

VIP Day  
28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

We had over 50 prospective families come and look at our beautiful Kindy on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May for our Open Day.



It was such a lovely morning with a real 'buzz' in the air, being able to welcome people back onto the Kindy grounds in person so they could see first hand what Staverton has to offer. I watched lots of children delight in play and discovery of our environment.

A big thank you to the parent volunteers for all of their help on the day - Anastasia and Nick Kostellar, Richard Blanch, Kelly Grady, Lace Sherston, and Prue Barnard. Several of the families commented how great it was to meet current parents

Your efforts on the day were greatly appreciated by all. We continue to accept waitlist applications for 2022 and beyond. Please keep spreading the word about our Kindy and encourage any prospective families to contact Staverton if they have any questions.



**Movie Night**  
**5<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

What a turnout we had at the movie night! It was fantastic to see all the kiddies and their families enjoying themselves with the movie and the munchies on the night. The funds raised from the evening will go a long way to the betterment of the kindy. Thanks to all families for their support.



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Covid Support

With COVID still impacting our lives, the information below provides links and support articles to help children, educators and families.

Please be mindful of how covid impacts on you as. If you are feeling concerned, stressed, overwhelmed by the ongoing impact, uncertainty and changes that covid continues to bring, please reach out for help. You need to help yourself before you can help others.

#### Help is available from

- Your Staverton buddies (share your concerns)
- Reading and listening to reliable information. Check your news source is accurate.
- Be kind and look after yourself  
<https://beyou.edu.au/resources/tools-and-guides/wellbeing-tools-for-you>
- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636  
You can also email them or join an online forum.
- Lifeline 13 11 14

**Be You offers lots of helpful articles.**

<https://beyou.edu.au/resources/news/covid-19-supporting-schools>

It has lots of great links for supporting educators, children and young people.

From this page there are SO many great links eg:

Talking to kids about scary stuff in the news

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_URnXXK4Aa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_URnXXK4Aa)

**The links below includes helpful information from other agencies:**

WHO

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff\\_2%20parents](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2%20parents)

Emerging Minds

<https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/supporting-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/>



play discover grow

**STAVERTON**  
Kindergarten

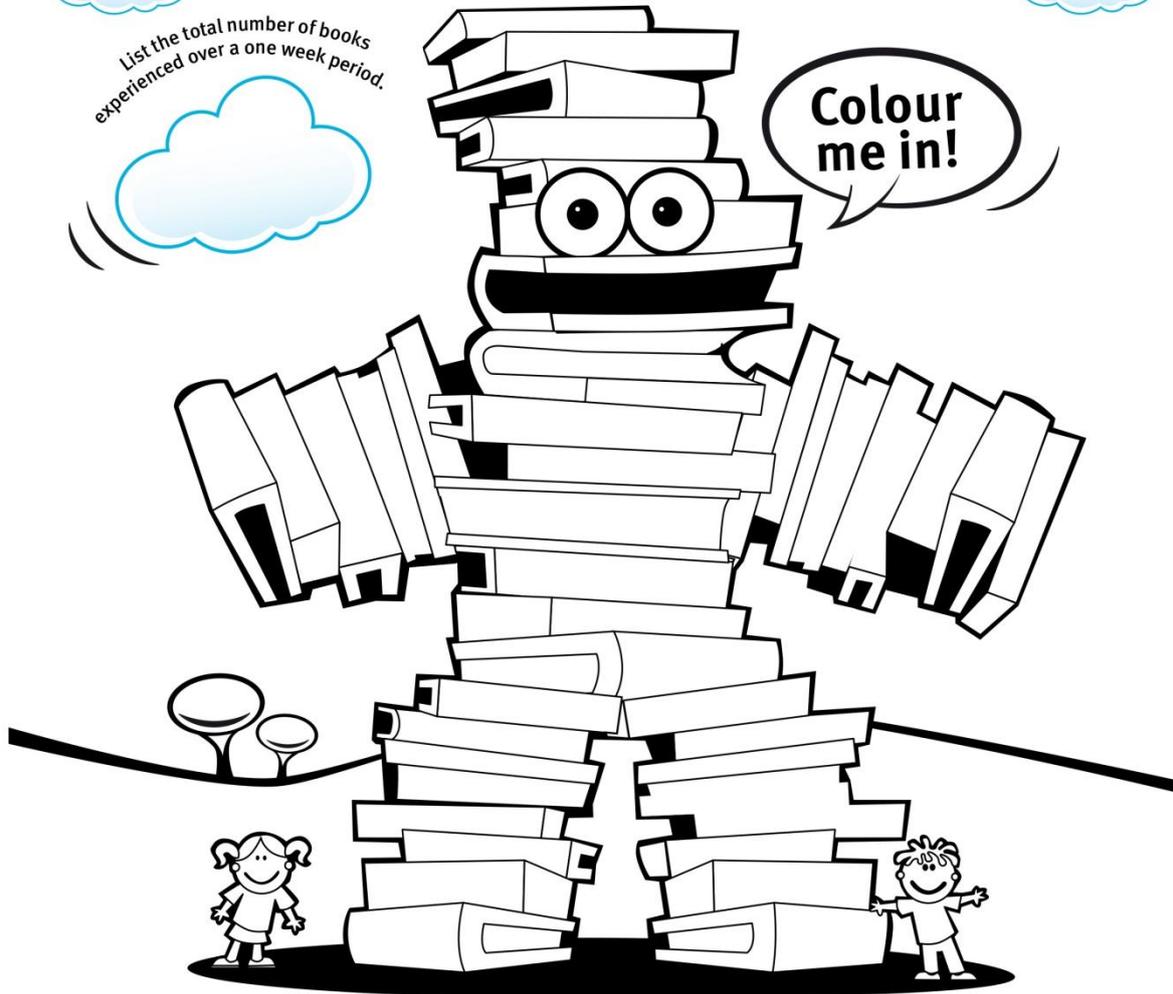
## 2021 Premier's reading challenge

### Early childhood record form

Child name: ..... Centre name: .....



List the total number of books experienced over a one week period.



Experiencing a book can include shared reading, listening and reading along, or being read to.  
Visit the PRC website for book suggestions: [qld.gov.au/ReadingChallenge](http://qld.gov.au/ReadingChallenge)

43 Twickenham Street, Chelmer  
Call 07 3379 1511  
Email [admin@staverton.com.au](mailto:admin@staverton.com.au)  
Visit [staverton.com.au](http://staverton.com.au)  
Find us on



# ENROL NOW FOR 2022

For children born between 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

**LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**



**43 Twickenham Street, Chelmer**



## THANK YOU TO OUR KIND SPONSORS!

**OXFORD**  
construction &  
development

Oxford Construction & Development



EBI Solutions



Educational Toys, Art Workshops,  
Children's Birthday parties.

Bim Bam Boom