



School Libraries in Action

Adventurers' Book Club - Program

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Adventurers' Book Club - Program

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1. Rationale

This concept came about after the failure of a number of craft-based children's programmes being offered by the City of Gosnells libraries and a wish to encourage literacy in young people in the City of Gosnells. Sharon Gurney, Manager of Library and Heritage Services, suggested that we investigate the possibility of offering a reading or book club for children. After a bit of research, a considerable amount of brain-storming amongst the Young People's Services (YPS) team, we came up with the Adventurer's Reading Club, with the theme "Travel the world of reading".

"Children whose early encounters with literacy are enjoyable are more likely to develop a predisposition to read frequently and broadly in subsequent years...Shared storybook reading plays an important role in promoting reading motivations; when the socioemotional climate is positive, children are more interested in reading and more likely to view it as enjoyable. The beliefs held by children's parents about the purposes of reading and how children learn to read relate to children's motivations for reading. Parents who believe that reading is a source of entertainment have children with more positive views about reading than do parents who emphasize the skills aspect of reading development. These findings have important implications for offering guidance to parents and for the development of family literacy intervention programs."

Baker, L. (1997). Home and family influences on motivations for reading. *Educational Psychologist*, 32(2), 69-82. Retrieved April 2006 from <http://leaonline.com/doi/abs/>

Situation Analysis – Target Population

Public Libraries

Identifiable groups	Age – 4 to 16 years; Junior members of City of Gosnells Library.
Resources available:	YPS staff x 3 plus casual staff as required; Junior or Adult Library resources; Meeting and junior activity rooms in libraries; two activity sessions per term time.
Resources required:	Existing resources of Young Peoples Services Department – computers, printers, photocopiers, stationery, paper bags, pencils, pens, bookmarks and other small stationery items for rewards, books.
Cost:	Utilised existing budget allocated for defunct programmes.
Delegation	Young People's Services (YPS) Librarian oversees running of Reading Club with assistance from YPS assistants, YPS casual staff and other library staff when available.

2. Learning Outcomes – Literacy

It is hoped that we can help to encourage and improve literacy standards of a number of City of Gosnells children. We have no way of assessing how effective our programme is at the moment other than to use feedback from parents, but we are looking at ways of gauging the programme's effectiveness. So far it has been encouraging with the few

parents we have had a chance to speak to seeing an increase in the amount of reading their children are doing. The challenge for us is to build on that and provide further incentives to encourage literacy.

We also hope to challenge children to explore various genres in the future which would be a positive outcome. We also hope to encourage a sharing of reading experiences within the club's meeting/activity days with book talks etc. in a non-threatening environment.

We hope to be able to see an increase in junior borrowing statistics.

If at the end of the year we have succeeded in introducing even one reluctant reader to the "World of Reading" we feel our programme will have been a success and achieved our outcomes.

Literacy Outcomes – Librarians

Book Club for Junior Members of the Library– Outcomes

- 1 Clients will be able to read the 25 selected titles using English.
- 2 Clients will be able to discuss a number of selected titles using English in small groups.
- 3 Clients will be able to assist each other in developing reading and comprehension skills.

Support Documents

1. **Observation checklist** – keep tallies on how often members participate in various club activities, how many passports are completed etc.

3. Establishing Prior Knowledge – Literacy

Support Materials

- Membership forms to complete (signed by a parent/guardian)
- Suggested Reading Lists for different age groups
- Monthly newsletters with facts and information for Club Members

Organisation of the Learning Environment

- Children and parents complete an application form
- Membership Kits available for children in the library
- Displays in the library
- Actively promoted by the library staff

4. Guided Practice & Modelling

Children, or their parents, fill in a membership form. Depending on their age they are then recorded as a member of either the Junior Adventurer's (4-9 years) or the

Adventurer's (10-16 years) club. They then receive a member's pack, which contains activity sheets, bookmarks, pens, pencils, eraser, newsletter and a passport. Each book requires the child to write the name and author of the book. The child is able to make a brief comment about the book and circle a rating. For the Junior Reading club it is based on a smiley face, a straight face and a sad face. For the older reading club this is based on a five star rating. The parent/guardian must sign to say the book has been read. Each passport contains a modelled example of what to do to scaffold the children's learning.

The passports are aimed to be interactive with not too much writing as the purpose of the book club was to encourage the children to read.

When the passport is completed the children return it to the library and receive a small wrapped gift (a few stationary items) and a new passport. Activity days are held twice a term, one for each age group. We have monthly draws for prizes, competitions and a regular newsletter.

5. Action Planning & Scheduling

Not relevant to this programme.

6. Tasks

Read books, magazines, comics, graphic novels or newspapers.

7. Evaluation & Debriefing

Evaluation:

- At the end of the first month we had 180 members; after two months we have 290 members.
- Our first activity day attracted 27 members – a significant increase on attendance at other after-school library programmes.
- Approximately 40 passports have been completed.
- Some indication of interest has been shown by a number of local schools.
- Positive feedback from parents and children, including word of mouth promotion to other children.
- New memberships (no firm number) have eventuated from non-library member children keen to join in the Reading Club.
- Positive feedback from Manager of Library and Heritage Services, Director of Community Engagement and the CEO of City of Gosnells.

8. Further Learning

The Adventurer's Reading Club is still in the formative stages, but with a growing membership and YPS staff with some great ideas it has an exciting future. We expect



the club to evolve and with a change in Librarian scheduled for July, and some fresh ideas, the possibilities are limitless.

Amongst some of the planned activities are:

- Author and/or illustrator visits/workshops
- Two activity days a term – one for junior members and one for older members. The activities planned for the juniors will include more storytelling, book sharing and crafts. The older members will have more opportunity to discuss books, look at new book promotions, explore new genres, research for quizzes and competitions and participate in some age-appropriate craft activities.
- A workshop on how to write or illustrate your own book or graphic novel.
- Encourage the children to write book reviews (again they need to have examples), participate in book discussions and share experiences with other children.