

## Early Bird, Early Literacy!

The Early Bird, Early Literacy program at the Port Macquarie Hastings Library is a literacy program for parents and their babies, 12 months and under.

The program is designed to give parents an opportunity to share and experience the love of reading with their baby. The program gives parents practical ideas on using stories, rhymes, songs and music to help babies develop early literacy skills.

Each session explores the use of board books, song, percussion instruments and other props, such as puppets, to share the literacy experience.



- The program runs for 2 weeks on consecutive Monday mornings, commencement time 10a.m.
- Each session runs for approx. 45 minutes.
- Sessions are followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to meet other parents.
- Bookings are limited per session and therefore parents are encouraged to take part in the Early Bird, Early Literacy program just once.
- The library also hosts Baby Bounce for babies under 12 months, Fun with Music for ages 2-3 and Storytime for pre-school age children.

For bookings and information regarding Early Bird, Early Literacy sessions for 2015, contact the Port Macquarie Library by phoning 65818755

## The Early Bird, Early Literacy Program

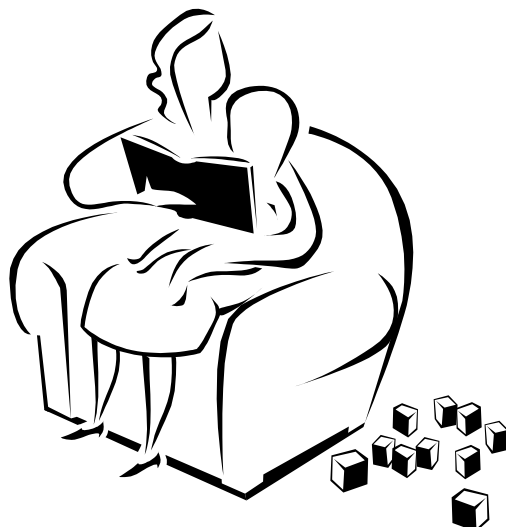
Early literacy is everything your baby learns about reading and writing before they can read and write!

By reading to your baby they will learn to love books, and appreciate them for their content and the stimulation they provide.

When hearing you read, your child will learn to recognise the structures of language, learn grammar and recognise the sound of words.

Reading to your child is a wonderful start to their future education.

Reading aloud to your child is a great opportunity to share and bond and at the same time they are learning valuable literacy skills.



## Early Literacy

By reading aloud to your children regularly, you are:

- Stimulating their imaginations
- Developing their understanding of how language works
- Reinforcing the value of reading
- Helping them discover the joys of reading
- Strengthening your relationship with your child
- Giving them a great start to their education



*Early Bird, Early Literacy—It's the Early Bird that catches the Bookworm!*

## How do I start?

There is no magic formula, no right way of reading and no special rules. A book, a quiet place, you and your child - it's all you need!

Try to make reading time a consistent event, at the same time or times each day and in a comfortable place.

It is never too early to start reading to your child. Babies love hearing stories.

Try to make your reading as expressive as possible. It really brings the characters and the story to life.

Your baby will enjoy books with large colourful pictures, short texts and rhyming texts.

Talk about the words and the pictures and what is happening in the story as you read.

Most importantly, make story time fun for you and your child. Enjoy the experience together.



## Early Bird, Early Literacy

**For Dates and Bookings for 2015,**  
please book online at :

<http://earlybirdprogram.eventbrite.com.au>  
or call the Library on 65818755

Further Early Literacy information  
and additional resources are  
available at :

[www.tenminutesaday.com.au](http://www.tenminutesaday.com.au)

[www.earlywords.info](http://www.earlywords.info)

[www.letsread.com.au](http://www.letsread.com.au)



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