

Members of the Rotary Club of Port Fairy

Welcome you, and hope that those who read this book with you help create in you a lifelong love of books and reading

THIS IS A BOOK



- ... that was donated to a third grade classroom
- ... that was studied by a student abroad
- ... that helped to teach farming to a Ugandan villager

...or maybe all of the above.

Each year, thousands of books are donated to schools, hundreds of university students receive international scholarships and countless children and adults are taught how to read, thanks to 1.2 million members of Rotary, who wrote the book on helping others.

Acknowledgements

This leaflet was prepared with reference to information and material from:

- The Murdoch Children's Research Institute for Community Child Health
- Newcastle Regional Library
- The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier West.

ROTARY CLUB OF PORT FAIRY



LITERACY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Dear New Parent,

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby.

This gift is part of the **Rotary Club of Port Fairy's Literacy Project**, whereby we are presenting each newborn baby attending this Maternal and Child Health Centre with a simple picture book.

Rotary supports literacy programmes in a desire to stimulate an appreciation of books and encourage a lifetime interest in reading. We encourage you to spend a few minutes reading the information in this leaflet and hope as a result you will spend many pleasurable moments reading with your new child.

We hope that together with your child you will enjoy this, the first of many books.

We wish you and your family all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

**PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF
THE ROTARY CLUB OF PORT FAIRY**

WHY READ TO A BABY?

There is a wealth of evidence that children who are read aloud to on a regular basis when they are very young, are readily able to learn to read once they start school.

When hearing someone read, children learn the structures of our language and grammar, and the sounds which make up the words.

Right from infancy, children learn that books are a pleasurable thing, an opportunity for enjoyment and fun.

Reading provides an opportunity to bond closely with your child, to share pleasure, to stimulate imagination, to reinforce language and to develop skills which will give a wonderful base for education.

What sort of books are suitable?

- Books with large colourful pictures
- “Flap” books
- Textured books
- Books with a simple story line
- Books which encourage anticipation of “what happens next?”

Where do I find these books?

- Your local library is an excellent resource—and it’s free!
- Bookshops, supermarkets, street stalls, markets, fetes, sharing with friends, gifts from relatives.

READING WITH YOUR BABY



Babies like:

- Being close to you
- The sound of our voice
- Books with textures and bright colours
- Repetition
- Being moved to the rhythm of a story, song or rhyme

To foster enjoyment of books:

- Turn off the TV or radio so that your baby can hear your voice.
- Hold your baby on your knee while you read.
- Start at the front and point out things your baby will get to know, such as a ball or a kitten.
- Talk about the pictures, the words, and what’s happening in the story.
- Read the same book again to build up anticipation of what comes next.
- Try out funny noises and sounds; play and have fun! The exact words don’t matter.
- Make an enjoyable routine and try to share at least one book every day.

