

February 2016

The importance of early child development cannot be underestimated. Research continues to show that we must invest in our children right from the start to improve their overall life chances. Our entire community needs to share responsibility for reading, talking, playing and singing with young children as these positive every day interactions will influence future generations of Australian children and families. Share a story, sing a song (or three!), start a conversation or play a rhyming game – you are guaranteed to have fun and will make a valuable contribution to a child's learning at the same time.

Sue Hill, CEO Raising Literacy Australia



Pregnancy and Newborn Expo - Melbourne

The RLA team are heading to Melbourne to take part in the 2016 Pregnancy and Newborn Special Edition Expo at South Wharf from 27-28 February. Come and say hello and take advantage of special expo prices on some of our favourite books. Proceeds from all book sales go back to support our key literacy programs and the development of new picture books for young children.

Real Needs Insurance Grant

A special grant from Real Needs by Real Insurance has allowed us to purchase an additional 10,000 picture books for Indigenous families in metro and regional South Australia. Books purchased with this grant include *Kick with My Left Foot* by Paul Seden and Karen Briggs and *Summer Rain* by Ros Moriarty. The books will be distributed to families throughout 2016 as part of the Little Big Book Club's Reading Pack program.



ALIA Early Literacy Summit - Canberra

From 7-8 March we will be attending and participating in a panel session at the Australian National Early Literacy Summit. The aim of the event is to work on collaboration strategies that will help future generations of Australians to acquire literacy and life skills and contribute to the global knowledge economy. We look forward to sharing some of the key insights with you in the coming months.

A warm welcome to our Raising Literacy Australia Ambassadors

We are thrilled to have recently appointed six new Ambassadors for Raising Literacy Australia. Joining us are authors Phil Cummings, Janeen Brian, Mike Dumbleton and Katrina Germein; Channel 7 television presenter Rosanna Mangiarelli and screen and stage actor Annie Maynard.

Keep an eye out for some guest book reviews in the coming months!



Thank you to all of our donors for supporting our vision to enrich Australian lives through literacy