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## MEDIA RELEASE

### New reading development initiative to support young children in out-of-home care.

From 1 November 2015, children under five in out-of-home care will receive a fantastic collection of children's picture and board books handpicked by the team at The Little Big Book Club.



The *Read to Me Project* has been established by Raising Literacy Australia Inc. under The Little Big Book Club program to support children aged 0-5 years who have been placed in out-of-home care.

With the generous support of Variety – The Children's Charity of South Australia, Families SA and Cochrane's Transport, the *Read to Me* initiative has been designed to assist in the development of emergent literacy skills and language with the added benefit of establishing a library of books that the children can keep and enjoy for many years to come.

*Quality interactions during the earliest stages of life play a crucial role in shaping children's perceptual, cognitive and linguistic ability, their physical, social and emotional development and physical and mental health, activity, skills and behaviour in adult life.*

*(Winter, 2010a, Engaging Families in the Early Childhood Development Story 2010)*

Children will receive an initial start-up library featuring:

- 10 picture and board books
- A *Read to Me* Library Bag
- Supporting resources for foster carers which includes an activity book and role-modelling DVD

Every three months children will receive an additional three books to supplement their home library, along with specially designed activities that complement the books. The next book delivery is scheduled for 9 December 2015 and will also include a specially designed *Read to Me* t-shirt.

Thanks to our project partners, there is no cost to foster families for the books and resources. Eligibility for the packs has been determined by The Department for Education and Child Development (Families SA) and they have also managed distribution of the packs to maintain the privacy of all children and families.

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For further information on the *Read to Me* project or to request a media interview, please contact Raising Literacy Australia CEO, Sue Hill – [sue.hill@raisingliteracy.org.au](mailto:sue.hill@raisingliteracy.org.au) or 8362 6066

The *Read to Me Project* is proudly supported by

