



Welcome to

R O O P
reading out of poverty



**We transform
children lives
through
the power
of literacy**



reading out of poverty

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WHO WE ARE ?

Reading Out of Poverty is non-profit organisation established in 2011. We are the only organisation in Victoria solely focussed on the development of literacy in children from birth to five years.

Our Mission

We promote the importance of literacy in the early years and provide literacy resources and services for families and children from low socio-economic backgrounds; including migrants, refugees, and indigenous individuals in Victoria.

Our Vision

A Victoria where children from all cultures, genders, and backgrounds can acquire literacy skills and quality education to reach their full potential and contribute to the community and the world.

Our goals

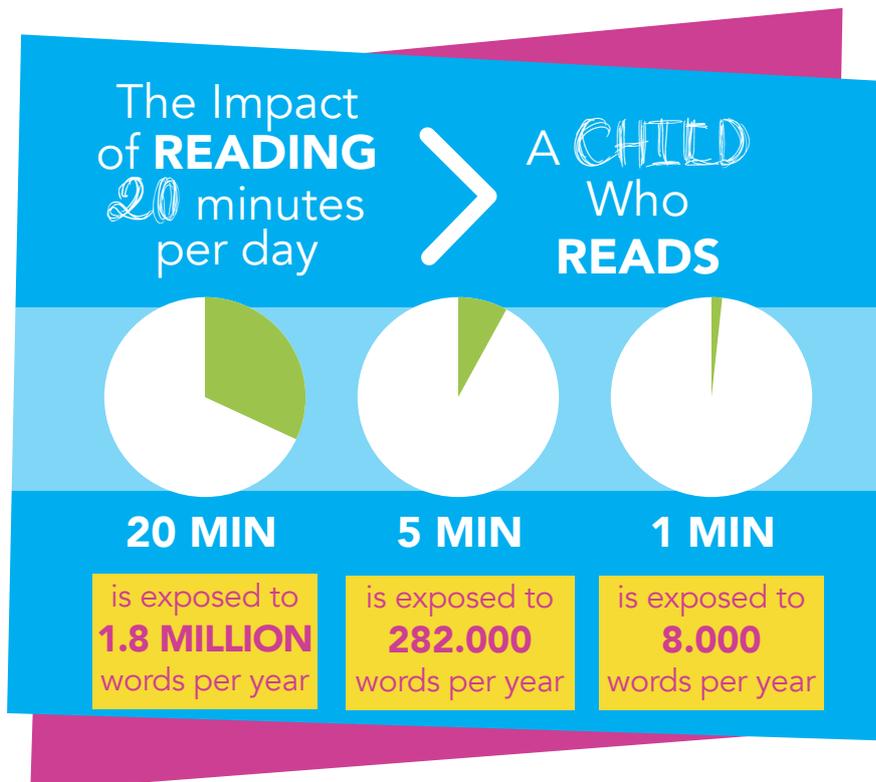
- Enhance literacy skills among the children we support.
- Create and maintain a love for and a habit of reading within families and communities in Victoria.
- Create awareness within the communities about the importance of early literacy development.
- Reduce the gap between children from a disadvantaged background and their wealthier peers.
- Train parents to support their children in their learning.
- Seek learning opportunities for children.

WHY WE DO IT

Research conducted by Harvard University confirms that in the early years, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second! Nourishing and stimulating a child's mind in the first years of life is as essential as feeding their body. This shapes the adults they become, the success they achieve, and the contributions they make to our economy and society.

Unfortunately, many of our kids from poor backgrounds are not getting the educational nourishment they need. Children who grow up in low-income families enter school with substantially smaller vocabularies than their classmates, and this disadvantage leads to further disparities in achievement and success over time, from academic performance and persistence to earnings and family stability even 20 and 30 years later.

We believe that reading in the early years is the most vital skill for children to thrive in their learning and children who are read to in their foundational years are more likely to achieve higher educational outcomes and fulfil their dreams later in life.



THE PROBLEM

1 in 6 Australian children and young people are living in poverty¹. When families struggling financially, they have limited or no access to books and learning resources at home. Also, the parents may have low literacy skills and this affect the developing and learning of their child.

Children from low socio-economic backgrounds often struggle to keep up with their peers at school. They are on average 2-3 years behind in reading and maths by the time they are 15 years old².

What we are doing to change this

- We improve literacy skills in young children, with the aim to break the cycle of poverty.
- We provide disadvantaged children with programs that help build a strong foundation in literacy – so that they can get the best start, succeed in their education and reach their full potential.
- We ensure parents understand the cognitive impact reading aloud has on their children's early learning.
- We establish partnerships with parents and caregivers, pre-schools, community hubs, health centres, welfare centres, migrant groups, government housing estates and indigenous cooperatives.

OUR IMPACT in 2018 so far:



1.https://www.acoss.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/ACOSS_Poverty-in-Australia-Report_Web-Final.pdf

2.<https://research.acer.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article>

OUR PROGRAMS

READ, LEARN AND PLAY

The read-aloud program focuses on improving children's literacy before entering primary school (0-5 years old). We place volunteers in libraries, parent's groups, playgroups, and community centres to facilitate story time sessions with children. These sessions create a fun and engaging opportunity for parents to learn techniques to increase their level of commitment with the development of literacy skills in their children.

Reading aloud is important because:

- It builds word-sound awareness in children – the basis for literacy development and reading success.
- It provides the opportunity for one-on-one bonding time between parents and children, forming a positive association with books and reading later in life.
- Exposes children to story and print knowledge as well as rare words and ideas not often found in day-to-day conversations or screen time.
- Gives children the opportunity to practice listening – a crucial skill for kindergarten.

“ Also, can I just say what an absolute blessing the ROOP volunteer has been!! The kids love her, she engages so well, **always stays and helps pack up and today brought in some resources she'd found at the op shop.** She's gone completely above and beyond!!! Can't appreciate her enough!! Thank you for linking her with us!! ”

Melanie Mumford, Hub Coordinator
at Springvale Rise Primary School



POP-UP LIBRARIES

Our pop-up libraries are small, child-friendly bookshelves that are filled with age-appropriate children's books for ages 0-5. We place our Pop-up Libraries in medical centres, welfare offices, community centres, and kindergartens and continually restock them with books donated from private organisations, Rotary clubs, and other individuals and community groups within Victoria.

This program aims to encourage parents to read aloud to their child while visiting the centre, in order to promote reading and early literacy engagement. Families are also encouraged to take home a donated book to keep and to continue the practice at home.

I have had the most wonderful response from families regarding the ability to take one of these books home and it is lovely to watch the families choosing one with their child. **It has also made leaving the centre much easier for some of the children who have been reluctant to leave the toys.**

So, win/win!

Cheryl Kearney, Maternal Child Health Nurse at Darren Reserve MCH Centre



CHRISTMAS BOOKS GIVING

Christmas is the best time of the year to give back to your community, and we are sure there is no better gift to our children than the power of literacy and education. We wrap packs of 2 or 3 new branded books to be donated to children whose families cannot afford books. We distribute the gifts to numerous organisations and community groups and they identify the children who will receive the gifts. In 2018, we delivered 1750 packs of 3 books.

“ My kids don’t have any books at home due to our financial situation. The Christmas gift of 4 books from ROOP gave my kids a new interest to read and look at the pictures. ”

Geelong mother



NEW MOTHERS INITIATIVE

We work with maternal health nurses, hospitals and medical practitioners to ensure new mothers are provided with a baby book, height chart, tote bag and mentoring support in early language development, play and literacy routines at home. This program seeks to see children develop a love and the habit for reading from birth regardless of their socio-economic background.

// The mentoring support we have received has been so important to start a reading routine with our baby. We have been provided with a baby board book and I guess my baby still doesn't understand what I am reading but she just loves the pictures on it

Spanish-speaking mum //



MULTI-LINGUAL BABY BOOK

We have published 15,000 bilingual children's books in English and 12 other languages including Albanian, Vietnamese, Khmer, Arabic, Dari, Mandarin, Burmese, Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Karen and Farsi.

The new branded board book is provided to migrant and refugee parents who come from a non-English speaking background. The board book provides the opportunity to read a story in their mother-tongue and English.

Additionally, we empower and mentor these new parents to be their child's first teacher and guide them to develop a regular reading and play routine at home each day.

This is the first time since moving to Australia three years ago that I see my own language in writing! I am so looking forward to reading this to my child!

Urdu-speaking mum





 www.roop.org.au  [readlearnandplay](https://www.facebook.com/readlearnandplay)  [readingoutofpoverty](https://www.instagram.com/readingoutofpoverty)

