

BOOKS IN HOMES

EMPOWERING KIDS, LITERALLY

Preschool Program



Key Components of the Books in Homes Primary Program

- To support preschools in creating a “value” for reading.
- To motivate families and children to view reading as an “everyday” activity.
- To support remote and low socio-economic preschool children by giving them equal access to books-of-choice as their more advantaged peers.
- To create a legacy of books-of-choice in remote and low socio-economic homes.

What is Books in Homes Australia?

The Charitable Foundation for Books in Homes Australia is a registered not-for-profit organisation committed to providing high quality fiction and non-fiction books to socio-educationally disadvantaged Australian children, many of whom come from bookless households.

The Books in Homes Book Selection Committee meets three times a year to choose the titles that make up the Preschool Book Catalogue. This committee includes representatives from the NSW Department of Education, the Children’s Book Council, notable children’s authors, teachers and librarians, and Aboriginal representatives to ensure that our books are diverse, as well as culturally and age appropriate.

Preschool children and their families chose their books from Preview Packs, containing 12 books per term. The children get to see and touch the books before making their selection. Children are empowered when they choose books they would like to own, and are delighted when they receive them with the knowledge that they can also keep them and build their home libraries. Shared family reading helps embed a love of learning and reading, and the development of early literacy skills prior to transitioning into school.

Since 2001, Books in Homes has distributed nearly 2.5 million books-of-choice to children across Australia. With your assistance, we can provide these benefits to your preschoolers and guide them to a rewarding literate future.

What is the focus of the Program?

Disadvantaged children and families – Books in Homes provides nine books-of-choice per year for each child in a participating preschool. Children take these beloved books home to build their personal libraries. This links early learning back to each child’s home, independent of the actual participating preschool, and helps foster self-driven learning, fun and a connection to books. The criteria for participating preschools is that they are located in a socio-disadvantaged area.

Remote and Indigenous communities – The Program aims to break the education inequality found in remote and Indigenous communities where resources are scarce and generational poverty prevalent. The Program ensures these communities are kept in touch with current titles.

Preservation of Indigenous culture – Twenty five percent of all titles are written or illustrated by Indigenous creators, ensuring books are culturally appropriate.

Refugee children – The Program also provides families with refugee status who are not literate in Australian Standard English (ASE), the choice of new books they would otherwise not readily access. Exposing children to books in the home environment encourages and promotes a love of reading, as well as improves literacy and shared Australian values in the extended family.

What does the Preschool Program deliver?

The Books in Homes Preschool Program runs during Terms 1, 2 and 4 of the school year, and provides the following:

Three Preview Packs of 12 books aimed at a 3 to 5 age group – The Preview Pack allows families to view and touch all the books on offer prior to making their selections. The Preview Pack is then donated to the preschool library for all to access.

Book Catalogues – Glossy A4 Book Catalogues are distributed to each child and family each term. They include information on the book titles on offer, as well as an order form.

Books-of-Choice for children – Each child in a participating preschool receives nine books per year (three books in each of Terms 1, 2, and 4). These books are predominantly picture books, and some have Indigenous themes.

Book Labels – Books in Homes provides a personalised label or name plate for each book, which emphasises the two most important characteristics of the Books in Homes Program—choice and ownership.

Book Bags – Each term, the children receive a sturdy waterproof bag to keep and protect their books.

Access to Role Models – Each term, and where possible, Books in Homes organises for an inspiring Role Model to attend special Book Giving Assembly to hand out books to the children and to help them aspire to continue reading.

Success Stories

Attendance – *“The high quality new books provided by Books in Homes are special to the children and their families, as they are not second-hand cast offs. The books are valued as a gift—the children are excited to receive them and therefore excited about reading them. After choosing their books from the catalogue, each morning students often bombard me with “are the books here yet?” These books have also provided great incentive for school attendance.”*

Cost Effectiveness – *“This project has been one of the most worthwhile and cost-effective programs. Increasing the exposure and contact of my students to literacy in the home plays a vital role in helping them not only learn to read, but to experience the joy of reading for pleasure.”*

Cost

The Program is delivered in Terms 1, 2 and 4:

Type of Program	Preschool Program
Cost per Child	\$77.70 excl GST

Preschools receive the following each year:

- **36 books via the Preview Packs**
- **9 Books-of-Choice per student**
- **9 personalised Book Labels**
- **3 sturdy waterproof Book Bags per child**
- **3 Book Catalogues per child**
- **3 Book Giving Assemblies per year.**

Further Information

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