

# Read

with your children

# from birth

So they'll be ready to learn at school



Binyang the Bookasaurus



Camden Paint the Town REAd is a community partnership project.  
For more information call 4654 7777 or visit [www.camdenkids.com.au](http://www.camdenkids.com.au)

# WHAT IS PAINT THE TOWN READ (PTTR)?

Paint the Town REaD (PTTR) is an early literacy initiative that encourages everyone to read, talk, sing, rhyme and play with children from birth so that they are ready for reading and writing when they start school.

The initiative started in Parkes NSW in 1996 and has now expanded to over 50 local government areas across Australia.

Camden Paint the Town REaD's journey started in 2016 when Binyang the Bookasaurus hatched from an egg at the first Camden PTTR reading day held at

Narellan Library. Binyang the Bookasaurus is the Camden PTTR's reading mascot. You may see him at the library, playgroups and other events around Camden. Check out his story below!

Our goal is to introduce Camden's kids to reading, talking, singing and rhyming in their early years, and continue to grow this love of reading in their school years and into adulthood. Studies show that reading with your child daily translates into higher language and vocabulary skills.

We want all of Camden's kids to read and succeed, so join us in reading, talking, singing and rhyming every day.



## BINYANG THE BOOKASAURUS

Once upon a time there was an egg. It was a very big egg – much bigger than an emu egg which was the biggest egg we remember seeing. We wondered what was inside.

One day, we were reading out loud and the egg began to hum happily. We knew then that our egg was a reading egg. How exciting!

To help it grow, the egg went from childcares, to schools, to the library and anywhere there was a lot of reading.

One day, the egg began to rock and a crack appeared.

The egg was hatching! Out popped a red dinosaur.

Our dinosaur needed a name. It is best to ask wise people when

you have a difficult question, so we asked the late Uncle Les Bursill – a man known to be clever with words.

“Hmm, you are the first dinosaur we have seen in Dharawal lands for many years. We don't have a word for your type” said Uncle Les.

“However, you are quite like a bird with your soft feathery skin and beak-like mouth so we will call you Binyang which is the Dharawal word for bird.”

Giving Binyang a kind smile, Uncle Les said: “You love reading, so we will call you Binyang the Bookasaurus”.

Binyang was thrilled to have a name and Binyang was definitely a name to be proud of.

Binyang still loves to read and likes nothing better than travelling around Camden reminding everyone to read, talk, sing, rhyme and play every single day.

**Read, talk, sing,  
rhyme and play  
every single day.**





## THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY SKILLS FOR CHILDREN

Literacy is the capacity, confidence and ability to use language in all its forms. Literacy incorporates a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, listening, viewing, reading and writing.

The Early Years Learning Framework (Belonging, Being and Becoming, 2019) explains that literacy develops from birth as humans strive to express feelings, exchange thoughts and connect with others through gestures, sounds and language. From infancy, children use sound, gesture and body language to communicate their needs and feelings.

Positive attitudes and competencies in literacy and numeracy is essential for children's successful learning. The foundations for these competencies are built in early childhood. Reading with children helps protect them from later reading problems, supports vocabulary and cognitive development and facilitates adult-child bonding.

**Reading with children from birth to five years is probably the single most important activity** families can undertake to enhance their child's future ability to read and write. Literacy is one of the most important foundations for children to succeed in school and life.

Children's author Mem Fox says that "You can change your child's life: their brain will develop, they will learn language, they will learn to love the adult who's reading to them, they'll learn more quickly how to read when they go to school."



## WHERE CAN WE GO IN CAMDEN TO READ, TALK, SING AND RHYME?

- Visit Camden's libraries for Babies into Books (BIBs) and Storytime
- Attend a playgroup in the Camden area. Check out BenSoc, Big Yellow Umbrella, Focus Connect, Northcott, Playgroups NSW, Uniting and local churches for details
- Go to the park and meet new friends
- Wherever possible, have your child attend childcare, family day care or preschool at least one year before starting school
- Sing songs in the car on the way to your destinations!

**If you're unsure where to start or not sure where your child should be at developmentally, contact Narellan Community Health Clinic on 4633 0500 or for more information visit [www.camdenkids.com.au](http://www.camdenkids.com.au)**



**Binyang the Bookasaurus**



## BINYANG THE BOOKASAURUS READING TIPS FOR PARENTS

**1**

Read at least three stories a day, even if it's the same story three times! Children need to hear one thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read!

**2**

Read with silly voices! Be loud and laugh a lot. Reading is for fun!

**3**

Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are short.

**4**

Play games with the things you can see on the pages of the book. Such as, finding the letters that start with your child's name or allowing them to finish the sentence of a well-loved story.

**5**

Never ever 'teach' reading or get tense around books. Just reading with them is enough.