

Thursday 9 December 2010

## PAINT RYDE READ – DYNAMIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN 0-5

*Give your kids a head start through reading, singing and rhyming and see them develop into happy, healthy, bright children.*

That's the message about *Paint Ryde Read* - the City of Ryde's dynamic early literacy program that harnesses community participation in helping young children develop reading and language skills early in life.

City of Ryde Manager – Community & Culture, Baharak Sahebekhtiari, says: “Literacy is a key to life's success and research showing that foundational skills learned through reading, singing and rhyming between the ages of 0 to 5 are critical for children developing literacy skills at school.

“As parents or carers, we all want to positively connect, have fun and see our children thrive – and encouraging learning and expression through books do just that.”

To spread the early literacy message, Council's Community and Culture team facilitates the *Paint Ryde Read* project through Council's own Library network and community programs as well as providing skill development and provision of resources (Possum mascot costume, reading tent, poster template, book mark, stickers) for community interagencies and commercial partners.

*Paint Ryde Read* start up projects undertaken this year include:

- Immunisation Clinics – City of Ryde partnered with Angus & Robertson Bookshop (Top Ryde City) for story time and give-aways during clinics
- Ryde Library Network and Youth Theatre presentation – Living a Fairy Tale storytime
- Vacation Care – Father's Day storytime
- Macquarie University – volunteers program
- Ryde Community Hub – reading corner
- Ryde/Epping Zone Playgroups - storytimes

- Hunters Hill Ryde Community Services – sessions with seniors multi-cultural groups (Chinese, Indian, Armenian)
- Top Ryde Shopping Centre – birthdays in playground area and marketing support

A multicultural Nursery Rhyme book is currently in development as a result of the grandparent/seniors groups.

Libraries are a rich source of materials for story telling and the Ryde Library Network has a vast collection of bilingual picture books for children 0 – 5 years available at all branches in English, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese to name just a few.

Drop in to any one of our local Library branches and check out the children's picture book section.

For more information, phone City of Ryde Customer Service 9952 8222.

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**Launch:**

**The Mayor Clr Etmekdjian will officially launch the Paint Ryde Read program on Friday 10 December 2010, 11.15am – 12.30 pm, West Ryde Library, Graf Avenue.**

**Guest Speaker: Respected Child & Adolescent Clinical Psychologist, Ruth Fordyce, will speak on “Building connections to enhance children's wellbeing.”**

**Photo Opportunity:**

**New *Paint Ryde Read* possum mascot. Children in reading group will name the *Paint Ryde Read* 'possum' character. 12.30 pm, West Ryde Library, Graf Avenue**

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