



first5
forever

For more information contact
first5forever@slq.qld.gov.au
or 07 3840 7807

The first 5 years last a lifetime



Queensland
Government

What is First 5 Forever?



Research shows that up to 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first 5 years.

- ★ First 5 Forever is a State Government initiative that aims to improve outcomes for children through supporting confidence around communication and learning.
- ★ Public libraries are partnering with local organisations to work together within their communities, to support parents and caregivers to spend time talking playing, and reading with children from birth.
- ★ Aligns with *ALIA's Early Literacy Framework and Strategy for Public Libraries, 2014* and *The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, 2009*.

The first 5 years last a lifetime

Aims



First 5 Forever aims to:

- ★ Develop community awareness of the importance of the first five years for children, especially relating to the benefits of early learning;
- ★ Increase parents, carer and community motivation, confidence and capacity to realise their child's potential re language, communication and emergent literacy;
- ★ Encourage a love and appreciation of books, shared reading and life-long learning;
- ★ Increase access of children and families to programs and resources that support early learning;
- ★ Increase library access and membership;
- ★ Increase agency collaboration and reduce gaps, duplication and competition;
- ★ Enhance social cohesion, cultural participation and renewal around the needs of children and families

Delivery and Implementation



First 5 Forever is being delivered through:

- ★ More places at public library programs including baby, toddler and story time sessions;
- ★ Outreach strategies and information toolkits for parents/caregivers of young children that support their role as their child's first teacher;
- ★ Local steering or advisory groups related to First 5 Forever that foster and encourage improved interagency collaboration including early childhood educators and child health nurses;
- ★ A state-wide awareness campaign for parents and primary caregivers;
- ★ Professional development and emergent literacy workshops for the regions;
- ★ Central coordination, data collection, evaluation and reporting.

Key achievements – Toolkit and resources



The First 5 Forever toolkit and additional resources are central to the campaign and have been developed to provide the families of under fives with quality tools, information and encouragement to make the most of the years that count.

- ★ All First 5 Forever resources have been endorsed by both Speech Pathology Australia and the Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing (Queensland Health)
- ★ Nearly 10,000 toolkits plus more resources have been ordered in October by library services for 196 branches, with more orders due in early November.
- ★ This means over 72,000 items are currently being delivered to libraries throughout Queensland!

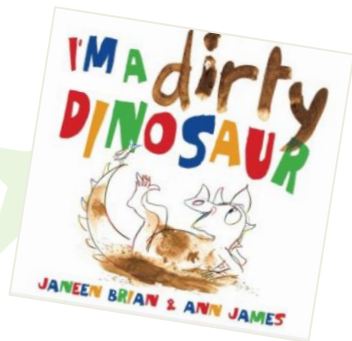


Key achievements – Toolkit and resources



The First 5 Forever toolkit includes a award winning picture book to share, a puppet to talk and play with, a rhyme time book with DVD and frieze with favourite rhymes to display.

These items are also available for libraries separately with other resources including fridge magnets, buggy books, and brochures



Research shows that up to 90% of a child's brain development happens in the first 5 years.

We all want Queensland children to have the best opportunities in life and have the greatest chance to succeed.

We need to work together as a community to support each other. This means spending time in the early years talking, playing and reading with our children so their growing brains get what they need.

Children learn best from the important people around them.

Babies and children love sharing stories. It's never too early to talk, read and tell stories with your child.

Sharing stories and rhymes, singing, talking, and playing with your child is not just fun but good for little brains too.



first5 forever

The first 5 years last a lifetime.

Incy Wincy
Incy wincy spider climbed up the water spout. Down came the rain and washed poor Incy out. Out came the sun and dried up all the rain. So Incy wincy spider climbed up the water spout.

Twinkle, Twinkle
Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are! Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are.

Hickory Dickory Dock
Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one, the mouse ran down, Hickory dickory dock.

Row, Row, Tow
Row, row, row your boat, gently, gently, gently, gently. Let a fair wind blow.

Round and Round the Garden
Round and round the garden, like a merry-go-round. One way, the other, they may under market.

Frere Jacques
Frere Jacques, Frere Jacques, Domineusque, Domineusque? Siveus, he meatus, siveus, he meatus. Dig any day, dig any day.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

The first 5 years last a lifetime



Queensland Government

Key Achievements – Language to Literacy



Language to Literacy Professional Development sessions are currently being delivered in partnership with public libraries to communities throughout Queensland.

2015 completed
2015 coming...
2016 program

- ★ 372 participants trained in regional locations including Cairns, Ipswich, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Townsville, Rockhampton, and Moreton Bay
- ★ By the end of the year **over 500** participants will have attended the free two day session in **14** locations.

"I just want to say congratulations for your organisation of the workshop. It was fantastic. This morning I arrived at work and said to staff [we] are going to change the world! That's how I feel."

"Congratulations on the workshop. It was great and I gained a lot from it - I am so enthusiastic about what we can do as a collective group."

The first 5 years last a lifetime

Next steps for First 5 Forever

- ★ First 5 Forever website completed first5forever.org.au
- ★ **Media kit and collateral** for libraries completed, plus media campaign ready to roll.
- ★ Year 1 data collection and **evaluation**.
- ★ **First 5 Forever PD** to continue in response to demand.
- ★ **New** professional development workshops times for public library staff - focusing on **delivering** rhyme times and story times.
- ★ First 5 Forever Coordinator **forums**: 4th November in Brisbane for SE Queensland, and 13th November for interactive webinar for the regions.

