libraries as connectors
nurtured by plumtree

Inclusion for community

plumtree
Where children flourish

Libraries as Community Connectors

Parent survey insights on making libraries more welcoming for all families

Who we are

Plumtree is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation that helps families thrive.

Trusted for over 30 years, we provide therapies and support for children aged birth to 8 years with a disability or developmental delay and their families. Our free online and centre-based playgroups and parent educational programs support all families. At Plumtree Preschool, children of all abilities and cultural backgrounds learn together and begin to understand the value of inclusive communities.

Plumtree's passionate, culturally diverse team of specialists work from the heart in a caring environment where families feel respected and informed.

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The national Libraries as Community Connectors project aims to develop skills, resources and training to enhance the library experience for children with developmental concerns or disability and their families. The project is co-designed by families, allied health, early childhood teachers and library staff.

Libraries as Community Connectors received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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Parent survey findings

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30% → 70%

2020 2026

More families comfortable with taking a child with a disability to the library since the project's start in 2020 based on our surveys

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Insights from families

Many more families are telling us they now feel comfortable bringing children with developmental concerns to the library.

They have also shared honest, insightful feedback about what helps them feel welcome, and what can make visits more challenging.

One factor stood out as the biggest reason families felt more confident walking through library doors: staff who were welcoming, non-judgemental, friendly and consistent in their support.

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Free self-paced online course

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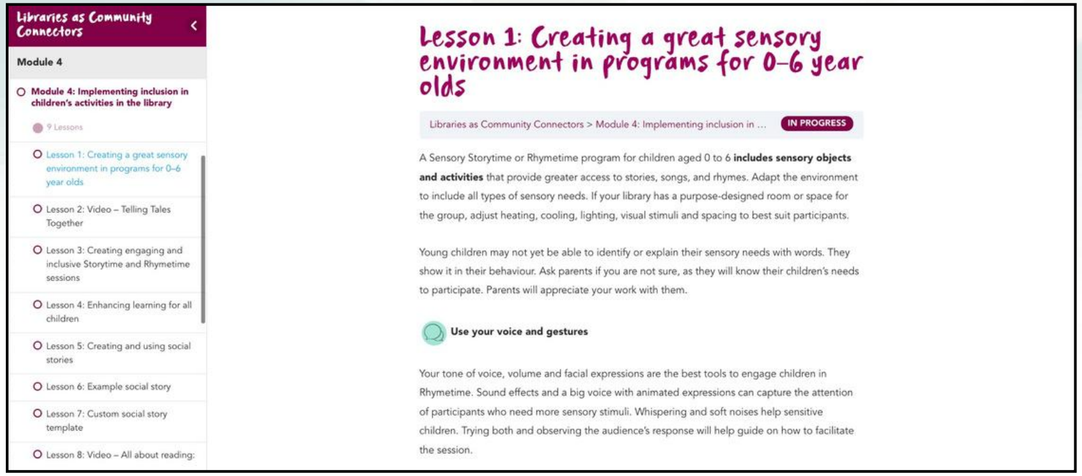
Topics include

- Supporting inclusion with strategies that work for all children
- Creating sensory-friendly environments
- Inclusive children's activities, Story-Time, Rhyme-Time
- Understanding children's behaviours and emotions
- Creating social narratives



Course updated in January 2026
Refunded to June 2027
Plus free online workshops

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Inclusion for community

Is everyone welcome at your library?

Free online inclusion training

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Learn more and enrol in the course!

"Our Library" by Donna Rawlins AUSLAN video launch

Presented by Emma Memma and Sue Jo Wright
at Concord Library