

YOUR TOOL FOR INCLUSIVITY!



STORY BOX LIBRARY AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSIVITY

Story Box Library (SBL) has multiple applications that can be used with children of varying ages and abilities. The multimedia design, special features and versatility of Story Box Library provides a universal tool that can support children with additional needs in relation to environment, resources, services or accessibility.

"[Story Box Library] is particularly appealing for our older students due to the personalities reading the stories. We often find it hard to find literacy programs that are age appropriate, but they really enjoyed it. Really looking forward to using it again."

Lesley Prout (Literacy and Numeracy Coach) - Glenroy Specialist School

Engagement

- SBL's multi-modal media format engages children who seek visual and audio stimuli or those who are interested in technology.
- The playlist function allows for tracking and recording children's favourite stories, which can be used as a motivator or to engage children through personal interests.
- Classroom Ideas and Activity Time projects that accompany stories encourage educators, librarians and caregivers to help children make connections with the text before and after viewing the stories.
- The collection of stories and assembly of storytellers provide a diverse representation of themes and individuals, including characters facing physical, mental, emotional and social challenges, presenting opportunities for all children to engage and connect with the stories. Examples include *The Hush Treasure Book*, *Gary*, *ANZAC Ted*, *Alfred's War* and *Chalk Boy*.
- At home access provides children with the opportunity to further engage with stories with the support and participation of parents, caregivers, siblings and professionals such as occupational therapists and speech pathologists.
- Playback speed can be adjusted to assist children in following along with the story.

Representation

- SBL allows children access to stories in an alternative format, potentially being stories that their peers are reading but are beyond their independent reading level.
- The search filter and Classroom Ideas for each story encourage the use of SBL as a resource across all major Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum, allowing students to engage with subject based content but also provides a familiar resource that can be used consistently across a school.
- By enabling children to engage with stories through play and art, Activity Time projects offer the opportunity for further comprehension of stories by allowing children to apply it to their own life.

"I love Story Box Library, I not only recommended it to families and children, but also a couple of adults who recently had dual cognitive implants and it really helped them to hear the word and the clarity. Aside from which the children love it and the best thing we can do for our kids is read, sing, rhyme and play to get the foundations of literacy that are so important."

Denie Rosee, Epping Branch Library NSW

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Learning Support

- SBL provides audio support for students with vision impairments or with specific learning disorders (SLDs) related to reading, such as dyslexia.
- Closed captions support children with English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D), hearing impairments or SLDs such as dyslexia, allowing them to follow along with a text being read aloud by our storytellers. In 2021, selected stories will begin to feature Auslan-interpretations.
- The human presence in the presentation of stories models audio and visual aspects of reading and storytelling, including volume, tone, pace, facial expressions and body language.
- Many of the stories featuring minimal text, repetition, rhyme and high frequency words (such as *Red House*, *Blue House*, *Green House*, *Treehouse!*, *Kick with My Left Foot*, *What's Up Top?* *Mopoke* and *My Dog Bigsy*) can be used to support the acquisition of language.
- SBL features a carefully curated selection of stories, ensuring a frequent encounter with rich vocabulary and text structures.

Flexibility

- SBL can be accessed 24/7 on any device with internet access, including via the StoryBox app, available for Apple and Android.
- Classroom Ideas are comprehensive and varied, providing educators with ample options to help children of varying abilities engage with the texts, thus contributing to the reasonable adjustments to learning that help students with additional needs meet learning outcomes equivalent to their peers.
- Activity Time projects require minimal preparation so are easily adaptable to suit children of varying ages and abilities.

"Some parents of children with a developmental delay or disability feel anxious about going to their local library. Online options, such as Story Box, allow families to access stories from a safe comfortable place."

Bianca Luks, Team Leader of Libraries for Children and Youth, City of Canterbury Bankstown

The StoryBox
app is here!



Download now
for Apple &
Android

