



# Little Libraries

User Guide

He aratohu kaiwhakamahi



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# Little Libraries

## Tō mātou takenga - Our why

Welcome to Little Libraries, designed especially for dedicated early childhood educators like you. Our mission is to support your vital work in nurturing young, bright minds and cultivating a love for reading among children aged 2-5 years.

The Little Libraries project, led by The Values Trust, addresses the concerning decline over the past two decades in children's literacy rates here in Aotearoa. Through our extensive research, we've come up with a solution to tackle this challenge in a fun and engaging way.



## Ko te whāinga - The goal

Our goal is to help 100,000 Kiwi kids fall in love with reading. To do that, we've worked in close collaboration with experts in early childhood education, children's spaces, educational design, existing literacy-focused organisations, and research teams, to create beautifully designed kitset 'Little Libraries', stocked with a diverse selection of award-winning children's books by Kiwi authors. These books are carefully chosen to engage and inspire the little minds you nurture every day.

Why focus on the 2-5 age group? We believe this is a critical developmental stage when children are most receptive to the magic of books. By fostering a sense of joy, excitement, and a lifelong love for reading at this early age, we aim to build a solid foundation for their future success, both in school and in life.

## Te Whare Pukapuka - The library

We're focused on rolling out hundreds of interactive kitset libraries to ECE centres across Aotearoa, focusing on those in the highest deprivation areas. These kits feature a unique modular forest design, including five shelving units shaped as trees, shrubs, and rocks. Not only will these kits house the books, but they will also create a beautiful reading environment in your centre. What's more, they'll empower the children to tell their own stories and fuel their imaginations.

## Tūtaki mai i ā mātou Mascots - Meet our mascots

In addition to the kitsets, we've created charming mascot characters - two tamariki, a tuatara, and a moa. These characters play a crucial role in inspiring children to dive into the world of reading; sparking their imagination and wonder.

In the heart of Aotearoa lay Te Ngahere Pukapuka, the Book Forest, a place where knowledge thrived. Four special beings protected this enchanted library: Te Mātauranga, the wise tuatara; Ako, the nurturing moa; Pua (Puawai) - the girl who blossoms; and Pito (Pito Mata) - the curious boy.

This forest was a part of "Te Wao Nui o Tāne," the great forest realm of Tāne Mahuta, the guardian of the forest and all its creatures. Tāne Mahuta had entrusted the Guardians of Te Ngahere Pukapuka with a special mission: to bring a piece of the forest's knowledge to the children of Aotearoa.

Ako, Pua, Pito and Te Mātauranga crafted Little Libraries shaped like trees, bushes, and rocks to bring the magic of Te Wao Nui o Tāne to children. The four Guardians oversaw these libraries, ensuring that they brimmed with wonder and learning.



# Meet the team

We have had a wide range of lovely people and organisations offer to lend a helping hand with the Little Libraries project; we'd like to introduce you to them and say thank you.





## The Values Trust

The Values Trust is an interconnected philanthropic trust, focused on making a difference in Aotearoa for Climate, Creatures, and Children's Literacy. They are the lead funders and coordinators for the Little Libraries project.

"As a values-led trust, we lean into the wisdom around us and within us – seeking alignment with the causes we care about."

[www.valustrust.co.nz](http://www.valustrust.co.nz)



## Storylines Trust

Ko tā mātou e whai nei, ko te whakaohoho i ngā taitamariki o Aotearoa me ō rātou whānau kia whai i te whakamīharotanga o te pānui pukapuka, otirā, ko aua pukapuka mā rātou i hangaia ai e ngā ringa tuhi, e ngā ringa tā o Aotearoa.

Storylines aims to inspire young New Zealanders and their whānau to enjoy the magic of reading, especially reading books created for them by New Zealand writers and illustrators.

[www.storylines.org.nz](http://www.storylines.org.nz)





## Public Libraries of New Zealand

In a world overloaded with information, spotting fake from fact is vitally important for decision making. Having access to trusted and reliable information is mission-critical. Literate communities are more cohesive, stable and high-functioning, more resilient, tolerant, and better able to develop and participate in enterprise and growth opportunities in all things life. Check us out.

[www.publiclibraries.org.nz](http://www.publiclibraries.org.nz)



## Wheelers Books

Partnering schools, early learning centres and public libraries to support the uplifting power books have to enrich lives.

[www.wheelers.co.nz](http://www.wheelers.co.nz)



## Storytime Foundation

Storytime Foundation is the only agency delivering books and information, free, into New Zealand's most deprived homes through well child providers, to enhance early attachment, build cohesive families and improve social outcomes.

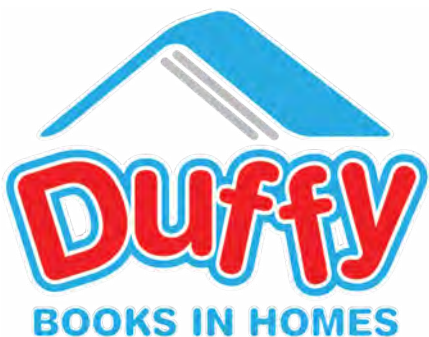
[www.storytime.org.nz](http://www.storytime.org.nz)



## Play'n'Learn

Play'n'Learn combines intentional resourcing, innovative furniture design, and the highest quality manufacturing, to help early childhood educators create engaging learning environments and playful learning experiences.

[www.playnlearn.co.nz](http://www.playnlearn.co.nz)



## Duffy Books

The philosophy behind the programme is simple - to break the cycle of 'booklessness'.

Kids who can't read become adults who can't communicate and that's a serious disadvantage in a world that operates on the written word.

[www.booksinhomes.org.nz](http://www.booksinhomes.org.nz)



## Point

Point partners with changemakers who are redesigning the system to make the biggest difference for community and whānau. We use research and evaluation to expose the messiness and uncertainty of systems change work and shine a light on potential and possibilities.

We know that creating change isn't easy, but it is possible.

[www.point.co.nz](http://www.point.co.nz)



## Kindello

Kia ora, we're Kindello

We are a daycare platform with the purpose of helping whānau find the perfect early learning service for their little ones.

[www.kindello.com](http://www.kindello.com)

## Thank you!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the organisations and individuals who've made this initiative possible.

Together, we're excited to empower our tamariki and break the cycle of declining literacy in Aotearoa.





# How to use your Little Library

We wanted to give you, as an educator, as much agency as possible when designing the Little Libraries kitset.

The main factors going into this project were space and style. Your centre is special to you and everything in it has been placed with intention and care. The hope is that this Library will adapt to your environment, with natural timber that complements your room and the manoeuvrability of the modular system allowing you to arrange the set to suit your space.

One of our partners, Storylines, have curated a delightful selection of titles to complement our libraries. We trust that you and the little ones in your care will love reading these award-winning books, which have proven to be firm favourites for Kiwi kids.



## Kōrerotia i āu kōrero - Tell your own stories

The design of our Little Libraries is akin to the props one might discover on a theatre stage. These are not your ordinary bookshelves; they boast bold, organic shapes that beckon the imagination. These intricate details serve as more than mere decoration; they are an invitation to explore and create.

Beyond the act of reading and listening to stories, our libraries aspire to nurture storytelling itself. We envision a space where children can embark on adventures of their own making, acting out unique narratives, and expressing themselves in the most imaginative and creative ways possible.

Our Little Libraries are not just a place for books; they are a stage for the boundless potential of young minds.



## Manaakitia i tō Whare Pukapuka - Caring for your libraries

### Library organisation

- Sort the books by age appropriateness and have lower age books on the lower shelves.
- Keep all of the parts together or spread them around the room.
- Little Libraries supplies 20 award winning NZ books with the kitset; we recommend rotating them to keep things feeling fresh.

### Get the kids involved

- Teach responsibility.
- Assign helper roles.

### Book care

- Teach gentle handling.
- Promote clean hands whenever possible.
- Put damaged books aside for repair promptly.
- Establish a routine where children return books to the Little Libraries after reading.



## He aha te tuku? - What's on offer?

The Public Libraries of New Zealand love our initiative, and want to make sure Little Libraries users are plugged into the local library scene for access to even more books and resources.

- All sorts of events happen within local libraries, including author readings and visits, crafts, group activities, classes and much more.
- Toddler Time is a free program all about getting pre-schoolers excited about books and visiting the library. It is loads of fun, including storytime, action rhymes, songs and more.
- The Public Libraries eLibrary is chock-full of a wide range of titles and services. eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines, eLearning and online course and exhibitions.
- You no longer have to worry about late fees for the return of children's books, as these have been waived in libraries across NZ since July 2021.



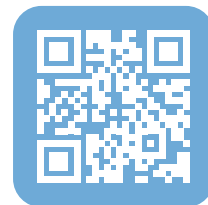


## Kimihia tō whare pukapuka ā-rohe - Find your local

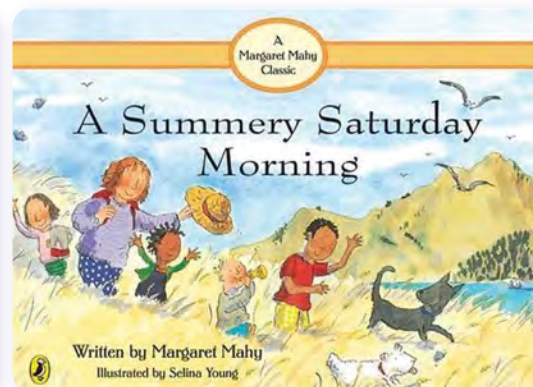
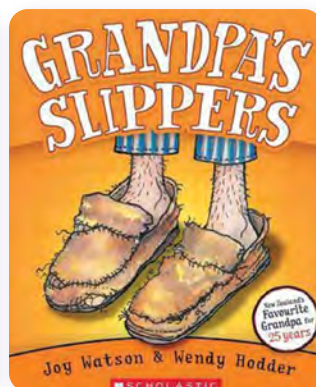
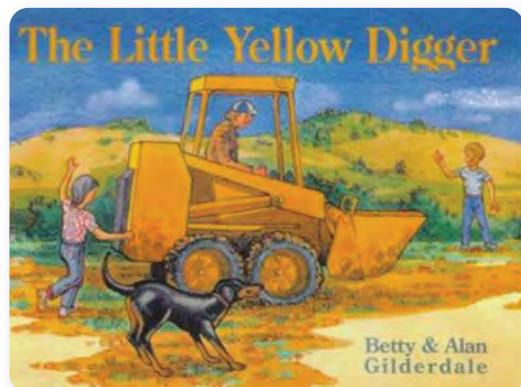
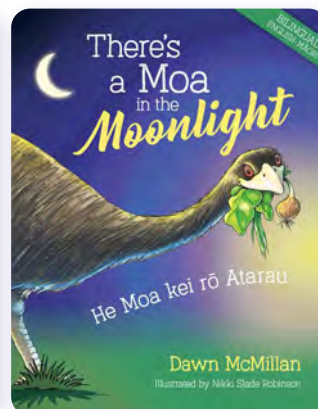
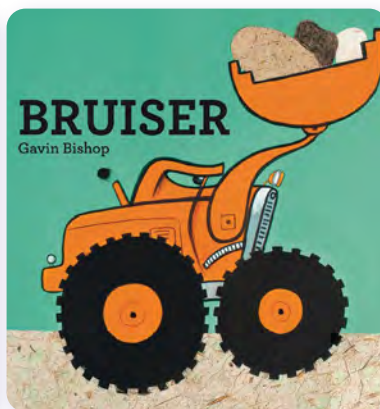
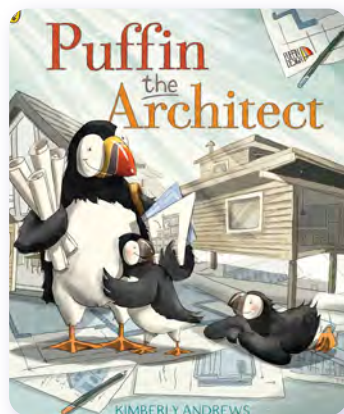
The Public Libraries website has a great resource for finding your closest Library:

[publiclibraries.org.nz/find-a-library](https://publiclibraries.org.nz/find-a-library)

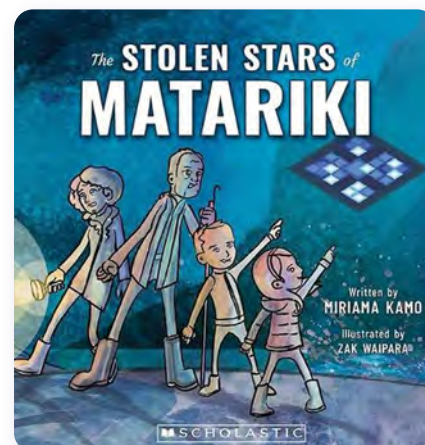
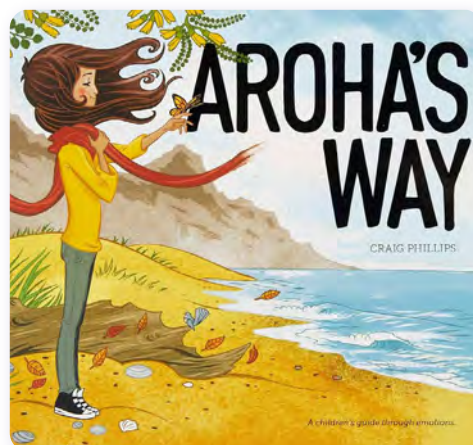
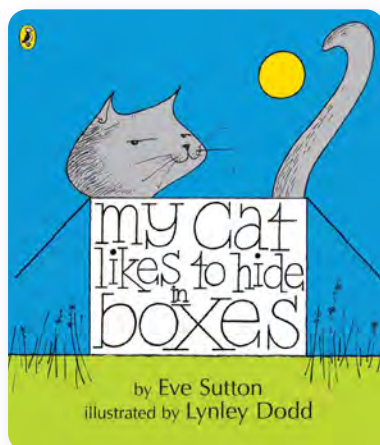
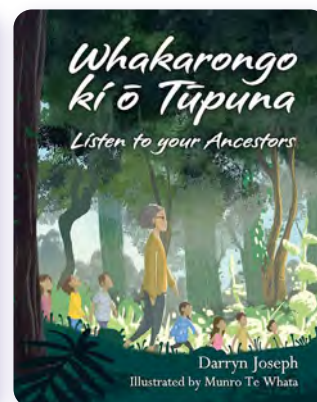
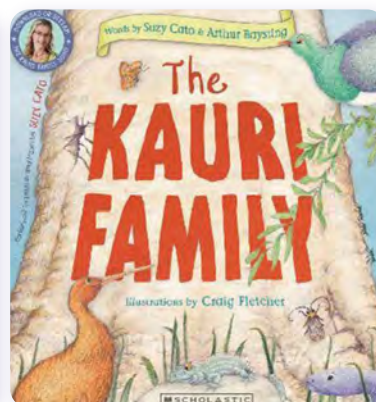
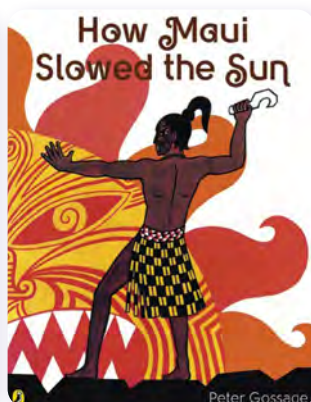
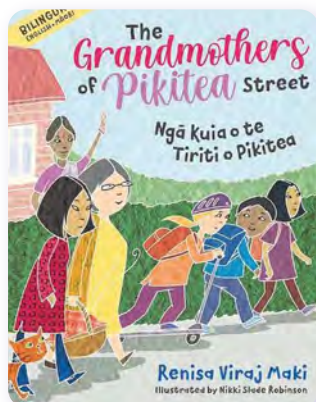
*Membership fees range from free to \$5.*

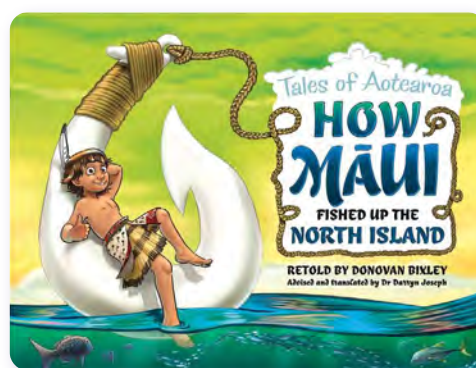
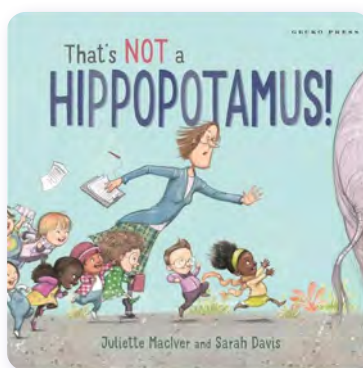
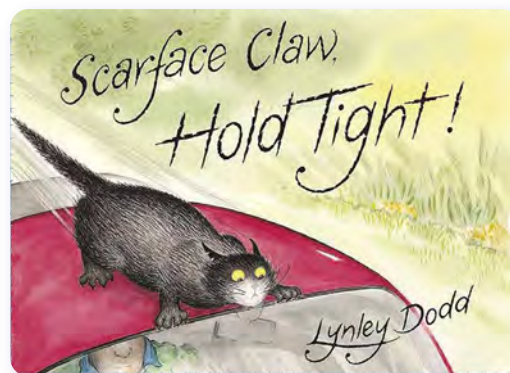
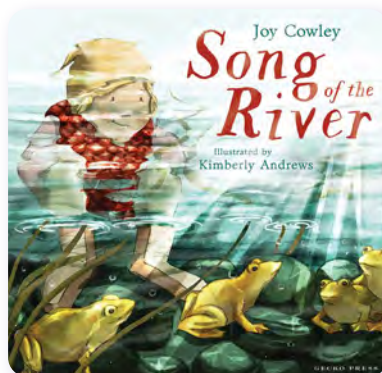


The titles coming with your Little Library Kitset:













## Ngā rauemi tāpiri - Ancillary Resources

Please visit our website, which over time will become an exciting hub of Little Library activities and resources. Alongside our partners we are creating supplementary teaching resources that educators can use in tandem with the Little Libraries kitset.

## Ngā whāinga ā mua - Future Goals

Little Libraries will eventually be in 1,000+ ECE centres across Aotearoa. We plan to carefully measure our impact and be prepared to pivot and change tack with new information and results coming in throughout the project.

## Kia mōhia mai i ōu whakaaro! - Let us know what you think!

This is where you come in! We need educators and people in these spaces to give us real feedback so that we can really make a dent in this issue of declining literacy rates in NZ. If you have any thoughts, constructive feedback, or ideas please reach out and let us know.

[kiaora@littlelibraries.co.nz](mailto:kiaora@littlelibraries.co.nz)

**Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou**

*seek after wisdom for the sake of your wellbeing*





**We're excited to hear from you!**

**[kiaora@littlelibraries.co.nz](mailto:kiaora@littlelibraries.co.nz)**