



# Little Readers Read-a-thon

# Parent Letter

2<sup>nd</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents,

Reading to babies has been shown to have a lasting effect on language, writing and early reading skills. Research has found that what babies learn when you read with them and this has an effect four years later when they're about to begin school!

The amount of words spoken to premature babies (known as parent talk) is linked to higher language and learning ability at 7 and 18 months corrected age. Reading and talking to your baby is an easy activity for you to participate in the neonatal unit that can help your baby long term.

*In celebration of International Literacy Awareness Day on September 8th please join us for the first Little Readers Read-a-thon!*

## How you can participate

Talk to staff and plan a good time and comfortable place for you to try reading to your baby. We encourage you to read and talk to your baby at any time for as long and as often as you are able, especially during these 2 focus weeks. If your baby's condition prevents them from coming out of bed for reading, read to them when they are in their bed ideally when they are awake.

## Log your books

Log the number of books you have read between the 2nd and 13th September mark it down using the 'Little Reader's read-a-thon form' provided by the staff in your unit. At the end of the two weeks hand back the form to the staff and we will add up the hours for your unit over the read-a-thon.

## Happy Reading!

### Tell others what you're doing!

Share, Join us on Facebook,  
Instagram or Twitter  
@NIDCAPAustralia or

@Lifelittletreasuresfoundation and  
share your photographs. We'd love  
to know more about how reading  
with your baby makes you feel.

#littlereadersreadathon  
#neurodevelopmentalcare #nicu  
#specialcare #readingmatters  
#littlereaders

Presented by the Australasian NIDCAP



Training Centre and Life's Little Treasures