



Going to Toddler Storytime at Emerald Hill Library

Acknowledgement

Wominjeka

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge their legacy and spiritual connection to the land and waterways across the City of Port Phillip and pay our heartfelt respect to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.

Acknowledgement of support

Our thanks go to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, who have provided expert advice and encouragement throughout the project.

Visual Stories

What is a Visual Story?

A Visual Story explains an activity or an event. It provides information about what to expect and why, using plain language statements and images. They can help to improve understanding of what will happen, provide information about social cues and acceptable behaviours, reduce anxiety, and enhance executive functioning skills. They have been shown to be particularly helpful for people who are neurodivergent but can be used by anyone who would benefit from additional preparation and support.

How to use a Visual Story

Read the Visual Story to your child regularly in the weeks prior to your first visit. This will give your child time to become familiar with what will happen and to ask questions. You might like to add your own descriptions if your child has specific concerns.

I am going to Toddler
Storytime at Emerald
Hill Library.



The library is on a
busy street.

There will be cars on
the road.



When I get to the library, there may be lots of people there. That's ok.



Inside the library I will see bookshelves, people using the computers, and colourful posters.



I will see people at
work in the library.

They are called
librarians. They wear
a name badge.



If I arrive early,
I can wait in the
children's area.

I can read a book
or eat a snack.

Or play in the
courtyard.



The toilets are past the librarian's desk and around the corner.

I need to walk through a quiet study area to find the toilets.



My trusted adult will
take me to the
storytime area.
I can sit on the floor
with other adults and
children.

I can decide if I want
to sit at the front or at
the back.



Our storyteller will introduce themselves and tell us what we are doing at storytime.



There are many
storytellers at the
library.

The storytellers may
change.



The storyteller will read a story to us.

Sometimes they will wear a microphone to help us hear.



I will try to sit quietly
and listen to the
story.

I will try to keep my
hands to myself.



There will also be lots of songs during storytime. It's fun to sing with everyone.

I can copy the storyteller's actions when we sing songs together.

Or I can just watch.



Sometimes when people are excited or happy they make a lot of noise.

They might laugh or jump around. This is ok. They are having fun.



If I feel worried, I can
go to the back or
another quiet place
with my trusted adult.
That's ok.

I can leave and come
back to listen to
another story or sing
with everyone if I feel
like it.



After storytime I can
draw and play.

I can get a stamp on
my hand and play with
bubbles if I want to.



There are some activities that can be noisy. We may play with the parachute and toys.



After storytime I can
choose a book to
borrow and take
home.



When it is time to leave, I can say thank you or wave goodbye to the library staff. This will make them feel happy.



Sensory experiences

What you can expect:



See

Shelves of books

Computers

Bright lights

Glare



Smell

Food and drink



Hear

People talking

Computers beeping

Trolleys rattling

Cars driving by



Feel

Rough carpet

Smooth books and paper

Sun and wind in our courtyard

See you at a storytime soon

Emerald Hill Library

 195 Bank St, South Melbourne

 9209 6611

 library@portphillip.vic.gov.au

For more information on storytimes and other library programs and services, head to <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au>

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can phone us through the National Relay Service (NRS):

- TTY users, dial **133677**, then ask for **03 9209 6611**
 - Voice Relay users, phone **1300 555 727**, then ask for **03 9209 6611**
- www.relayservice.gov.au