

Reading is such an imperative life skill, particularly in this current digital age.

But what if you couldn't read?

How different your life would be if you couldn't read?

Take a moment to reflect upon that....

Sadly, this is a current problem here in Australia with reading results being the worst performers for the western world. Unfortunately, the evaluations for local children indicate that there are reading challenges right here in this community of Onkaparinga. In the community of Hackham 13.2% of children 0-5 years old are developmentally vulnerable in the domain of language and cognitive skills when compared with the State and National average of 6.8% and 6.5% respectively (taken from the Australian Early Development Census – AEDC 2015).

Just over four years ago, United Way SA introduced the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to SA, which involves delivering a free monthly book to the homes of children under five that live in geographical locations with high developmental vulnerability according to the AEDC data.

Results have been outstanding with daily reading in homes increasing from 10% to 76%. The length of time reading has similarly experienced significant improvements with reading for 10 minutes and over, increasing from 27% to 67%.

This program is known as **United We Read** and we are excited to announce that **Communities for Children Onkaparinga have funded United Way SA** to offer children in <u>Hackham</u> the opportunity to register to receive free monthly books.











The **United We Read Hackham** program is now receiving registrations and we invite you to consider families that you have contact with who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Children who live in/attend your service in Hackham or
- Vulnerable/at risk family that is in close proximity to Hackham (must be in the City of Onkaparinga itself)
- If multiple children under 5 years old, register the oldest child that is under 4 years old as of Jan 1st 2019 (that is 1 child is registered per household)

Complete the attached registration form for each family and return to United Way SA via email: uwr.assistant@unitedwaysa.com.au with subject heading United We Read Hackham.

What will the families receive?

- 8-10 weeks after registration a free monthly book
- Book is delivered each month to the household letterbox
- Book contains parent tips
- Book deliveries will occur up until June 30th 2019
- Upon face-to-face registration, families can be given the welcome pack which
 contains several books (Please connect with Tracey Malliaros; AnglicareSA
 Communities for Children Onkaparinga by email: tmalliaros@anglicaresa.com.au or
 Phone: 8392-3176 if you would like some of these packs.)

I thank you for your partnership in registering children and families, so that together we can make a difference to a child's future by providing resources to build their literacy potential.

Kind regards,

Kerry Davies

Senior Officer United Way SA

uwr.assistant@unitedwaysa.com.au









