

*Nal'ibali*

IT STARTS WITH  
A STORY.

# The Nal'ibali Reading Club Welcome book







# Welcome!

Because you've shown an interest in making reading a regular and enjoyable practice for children in your community, you've completed the necessary training, and you've gained an understanding of how to start and keep a reading club going, you will be signed up to the Nal'ibali reading club network. This is where you will become an active member of the Nal'ibali family of reading clubs across South Africa! These reading clubs are safe and happy places where children are inspired by stories and books. **Welcome to the start of your reading club's journey with us!**



## The Nal'ibali Child Protection Policy

Part of your Nal'ibali reading club training included an introduction to and the signing of the Nal'ibali Child Protection Policy. This policy is your commitment to safeguarding the children in your reading club whilst they are in your care. It is to be taken **very seriously** as we ensure the highest standards of professional behaviour and personal practice to ensure no harm occurs in any situation to children or adolescents during their involvement in Nal'ibali activities, projects and programmes.

The behaviour guidelines are clear and simple, stipulating what is and what is not **appropriate behaviour** when in direct contact with children. They also provide guidance on the acceptable and unacceptable sharing of information about children. You must be able to identify sources of support for children and their families if you notice any signs of child abuse, including (but not limited to) physical (hitting, punching, slapping, pushing, shaking), emotional (insulting, shouting, embarrassing, reprimanding, bullying), neglect (ignoring, belittling, shaming) or sexual (touching, kissing, hugging, fondling, rubbing).

Nal'ibali will immediately report any misconduct to the appropriate authority, and suspend any staff member or volunteer found to be non-compliant with child protection standards, pending a full investigation. Furthermore, Nal'ibali will conduct **regular evaluations** with parents of reading club children to ensure that appropriate conduct in reading club settings is being maintained.

The full Nal'ibali Child Protection Policy can be found on the Nal'ibali website at <https://bit.ly/40Jxiqb>.

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## Our FUNda Sonke training

Nal'ibali offers free, practical and interactive reading club training. **Every new reading club leader must complete this training.** The training can be done in your own time and at your own pace, and covers what Nal'ibali is all about, the importance of being a literacy volunteer and how to start and maintain a reading club. All you need to complete the online training is a cellphone and data. Simply WhatsApp **"courses"** to **0600 44 22 54** and follow the instructions. Once you've completed each module you will earn a **Certificate of Competence!**

\* **Details about how to complete the training will be covered in your first check-in session with your Nal'ibali provincial coordinator.**

<b>Module 1:</b>	
<b>An introduction to Nal'ibali</b>	This three-hour module introduces you to the Nal'ibali campaign and to the importance of stories and reading for enjoyment for literacy development.
<b>Module 2:</b>	
<b>How to be a literacy volunteer</b>	This one-day module shows you how to be a literacy volunteer (or a FUNda Leader as we at Nal'ibali call it). You will explore the role that family and community members play in children's literacy development, and learn about the benefits of reading for enjoyment, and what motivates children to read.
<b>Module 3:</b>	
<b>Run a reading club</b>	This one-day module helps you to take the next steps in deepening your practice. You will learn how to set up, run and keep a reading club going, in different settings.
<b>Module 4:</b>	
<b>Iintsana Namabali</b>	Iintsana Namabali helps young children to grow into confident, imaginative and curious learners. It is based on theories, research and experience about how babies and young children learn to think, play, solve problems and use language.



**FUNda**  
**SONKE**  
Loyalty Programme



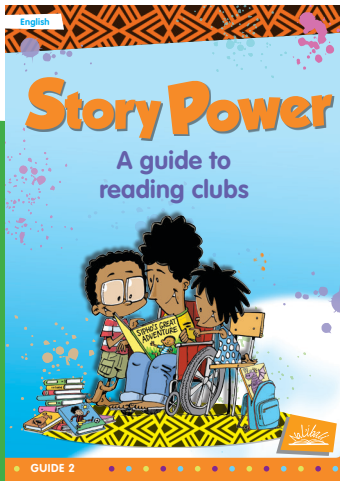


# Using the Welcome pack

The Welcome pack helps you to get your reading club started. Or if you have been running your reading club for a while, it can help you to make it better.



Find ideas for improving and growing your reading club on pages 8 to 21. The rest of the **Welcome book** is filled with materials for you to use at your club.



This **guide** is filled with useful information for reading club leaders. Find out about what a reading club is, how to start one and how to grow a successful reading club. There is also advice on how to find and create reading materials that your reading club members will enjoy!



Display the **Children's Literacy Rights** poster at your reading club in a place where the children and visitors can read it easily.



Brighten up your reading club space with this **multilingual poster** that encourages children to read, and celebrates different languages at the same time!

Use this chart to track and celebrate your **reading club's activities**. Display it at your reading club and then fill it in each time you meet. Or let the children complete it themselves – this gives them a chance to write for meaning, and will also give them a sense of pride!

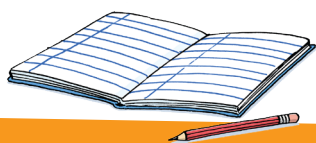
### My weekly reading adventures

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Note to caregivers:  
Children learn to read by hearing words and letter sounds. When read to, children start to recognise words and how to pronounce them. This leads to understanding words and stories. Encourage your child by adding up how many new words they've learnt in a week!

Date:	Name of story:	Who you read it with:	Words I've seen before:	New words I've learnt:	My favourite part of the story:

**My weekly reading adventures:** Children learn to read by hearing words and letter sounds. When you read to children, they start to recognise words and how to pronounce them. This leads to understanding words and stories. Encourage your child by adding up how many new words they've learnt in a week!



**My reading journal:** Hearing and reading stories helps children learn new words which makes them confident readers. Use this chart to encourage and track your children's reading progress in a fun and relaxed way.

### My reading journal

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the story: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note to caregivers:  
Hearing and reading stories helps children learn new words which makes them confident readers. Use this chart to encourage and track your child's reading progress in a fun and relaxed way.

What I remember about the story	0%	20%	50%	75%	100%
Help your child to write down what he/she remembered about the story and rate how much he or she remembers.	Does not remember anything from the story.	Remembers a few parts of the story.	Remembers half of the story.	Remembers the most parts of the story.	Remembers most or the whole story.
What I enjoyed about the story	What I did not enjoy about the story				
Help your child to write down something he or she enjoyed about the story.	Help your child to write down something he or she did not enjoy about the story.				
Number of words I saw for the first time	Number of words I know (understand meaning)				
Help your child to write down the number of new words he or she saw for the first time.	Help your child to write down the number of new words he or she now understands.				
New words I would like to know	Give your child a star for every new word learnt				
Ask your child which new words he or she would like to know and help write them here.	Get your child to colour in every star given in a different colour.				
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## Build a story! Bou 'n storie!

**Build a story board game.** This fun game encourages children to use their imaginations by following easy steps to create their own original story using a basic story framework. The interactive board game is perfect for a reading club setting as it encourages group work and keeps children occupied.

### How to play the board game

- \* Players should follow the path and take turns to tell a story about a hero.
- \* The game can (ideally) accommodate 2-6 players.
- \* Decide which player will start and who will go next until all players have had a turn. Keep playing in this order for the duration of the game.
- \* The first player begins building the story at 1. The second player continues the story at 2, etc.
- \* All players take turns to follow the blocks on the path.
- \* Add one sentence to the story at each block.
- \* When one of the players gets to the end, your story is complete.
- \* Once their story is complete, teams should present/tell their stories to the class.





Display this useful **alphabet chart** which helps children think, pronounce words and speak with confidence. It also teaches children how to recognise the individual letters and sounds of the alphabet – which is part of the process of learning to read.



**Colouring in** helps children improve their fine motor skills (this is the ability to make movements using the muscles in our hands and wrists) and trains the brain to focus. It is also a cheap activity that needs little preparation and it's great for calming groups of energetic children!



Display this colourful **literacy calendar** where everyone can see it! It has all the important dates of when to celebrate fun literacy events and helps you plan your reading club activities. **Note:** Some of the dates change from year to year. Confirm the dates online each year.

## The Nal'ibali reading club journey

Now that you are part of the Nal'ibali reading club network, this is what you can expect:

- ★ You'll need to complete Nal'ibali's free online reading club training modules.\*
- ★ You'll need to complete a monthly reading club activity report.\*
- ★ We'll send you a welcome pack with useful information and resources to start your reading club.
- ★ We'll send you monthly communications with stories and tips to keep your reading club going.
- ★ We'll check in every three months to offer support, answer questions and keep you motivated.
- ★ You'll receive invitations to take part in events on the Nal'ibali literacy calendar like World Read Aloud Day.

\* Details on the reading club training modules and the monthly reading club activity report are included in the welcome pack and will be explained to you in your first check-in with your provincial coordinator.



# Reading club principles

Here are a few things that Nal'ibali believes are important in starting and growing reading clubs. You can use them when you plan all the activities at your reading club.

Reading clubs should:

- ★ be places where everyone feels safe and welcome
- ★ value and celebrate children's thoughts, ideas and opinions
- ★ encourage a sense of community
- ★ be places where everyone works together, helping each other to grow as readers
- ★ encourage children to be creative
- ★ encourage children to think critically
- ★ encourage everyone to use the language/s they want to
- ★ give children access to reading material in their home language/s and in English
- ★ focus on reading for enjoyment and growing children's love of reading
- ★ be places where children can enjoy books and stories with each other and with interested adults
- ★ invite parents to be involved in the reading club and in their children's literacy journeys
- ★ enable children to experience the power of stories in different ways
- ★ offer stimulating and fun activities



Do you have any goals you want to include for your reading club? Maybe you want to have read 100 stories during the year, or you want every child to have had a turn to read aloud. Whatever your goals are, write them down here.

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# Running a successful reading club

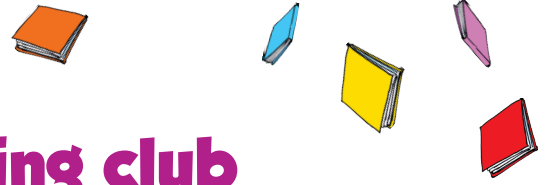
There are many things that you can do to make your reading club a safe, exciting place where children can enjoy stories and reading. Here are some ideas.

## Do 👍

- 👍 **Regularly use** the home language/s of the children as well as other languages they might be learning.
- 👍 **Sign up** at your nearest library so that you can borrow books for your reading club. Then take the children on an outing to the library and help them to become members too. Anyone can join the library and its free!
- 👍 **Display books** and reading materials on the floor, a table or a low shelf before children arrive so that they can choose what interests them.
- 👍 **Choose** stories, games, songs and other activities that you enjoy. If you enjoy something, it will show in the way you present it!
- 👍 **Make time** for children to read quietly to themselves or in groups. Sometimes ask the children to choose a book for you to read to them.
- 👍 Each time your reading club meets, **spend time** reading aloud to the children. Sometimes give children a chance to read aloud too, but only if they choose to – never force them to.
- 👍 When you are reading a picture book to the children, make sure that you **finish the story** – don't stop halfway through! If you are reading a book with chapters aloud, then read a few chapters at a time and stop at the end of a chapter, not in the middle. Be prepared to reread favourite stories when children ask you to.
- 👍 **Write notes** about your favourite stories and ask the children to write about theirs. Share recommendations with parents and volunteers.
- 👍 **Encourage** children to experiment and to try new activities.
- 👍 **Invite** parents, caregivers and older siblings to attend your reading club sessions.
- 👍 Make sure that you have a completed **reading club permission** form (see page 24) for each child.

## Don't 👎

- 👎 **Force children to read** a book they're not interested in. Rather help them to choose another one.
- 👎 **Force children to answer** questions after the story or to write about it if they don't want to. Rather let them choose a story activity they would enjoy more, or choose another book to read.
- 👎 **Make children read aloud in front of others** if they don't feel confident doing so. Rather suggest that they read to you or on their own.
- 👎 **Read the same books** over and over if you and the children are tired of them. Swap books with friends, ask for advice from libraries about other stories to read for different age groups, and find out where you can get donations of books.
- 👎 Say or do anything that might **make children feel ashamed** or not good enough. For example, never shout at or embarrass the children and never hit them. Rather praise them for what they have achieved and encourage them to try the next step. If they behave in a way that disturbs the rest of the children, take them aside and gently explain to them how you would prefer them to behave. Then praise them when they get it right!
- 👎 **Leave the children unattended.** If you need to leave the venue for any reason, make sure that you are away for no more than two minutes. Before you leave, settle the children and make sure that they get busy with a quiet activity like reading books, writing or drawing.



You can find more information about how to set up a reading club on page 4 of *Story Power Guide 2*.

### Starting a reading club

So you're inspired to start a reading club? There's no single correct way of doing this. You need to do what is easiest for you because that way you can more likely be able to keep the club going and growing! Here are some ideas to guide you.

- **What?** Reading clubs can be run by people who have children and books and want to help children grow to love stories and reading. You don't have to know a lot about stories yourself – you'll learn about the wonderful world of children's stories as you go along. The important is to be fun, get ideas and the excitement that you are reading to children. How many volunteers you can find to help you organize activities at your reading club. Use this to help you decide how many children you can accommodate. How often you can meet usually works well. The more children you can give each other, it's a good idea to start with a small number of children with an adult in a reading club. They can read your own books too, if you want to.
- **Where?** A reading club can happen anywhere that is quiet and safe – at school, after school, in a library, a community hall or club. Start out in someone's house or garage, at a reading club or in your mosque or temple – whatever is easiest for you!
- **When?** A reading club can meet anytime that is convenient. It can last for half an hour, or an hour. It's up to you! Your reading club will grow over time. You could meet more often, but it shouldn't be too frequent. Something to think about is to have a quiet time for reading and writing and a more comfortable time for reading and writing. You can also happen under a tree, lying on the grass, or anywhere else that looks right. Really, you need good reading material to keep everyone interested – picture books, novels, information books, poetry, plays and songs, newspapers and magazines.
- **How many?** Decide how many volunteers you can find to help you organize activities at your reading club. Use this to help you decide how many children you can accommodate. How often you can meet usually works well. The more children you can give each other, it's a good idea to start with a small number of children with an adult in a reading club. They can read your own books too, if you want to.



## Make your reading club a safe place

A code of conduct is a useful tool to help make sure that everyone feels safe and respected at your reading club. It is an agreement of how everyone will behave and treat each other when they are there. Here are some ideas for creating a code of conduct.

- 1. Have a discussion.** Together with the children and adults at your reading club, talk openly about behaviours that you think are harmful or inappropriate. Remember that if something we say or do humiliates, shames, intimidates, discriminates against or physically and/or emotionally harms someone else, then that person will not feel safe or respected.
- 2. Share ideas.** Now invite everyone to suggest things that you could all do, and ways that you could all behave, that would make everyone feel valued and respected at your reading club.
- 3. Create a code of conduct.** Together, write a list of the ways in which everyone at your reading club will behave towards each other. (You may also want to include a list of behaviours that are not acceptable at your reading club.)
- 4. Plan ahead.** Your code of conduct is made up of the rules that apply to all adults and children at your reading club. Decide together how your reading club will deal with the situation if someone does or says something that goes against the code.
- 5. Display your code.** Put your code of conduct up on the wall each time your reading club meets so that everyone can refer to it if they need to.
- 6. Revisit your code.** Once or twice a year, spend time discussing the code again to remind yourselves what you have all agreed to. Decide if there is anything you want to add or change.

### Always make sure that:

- \* the children know who to tell if they experience or see something that upsets or makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- \* the volunteers know what to do next when a child tells them about something that has harmed them or made them feel uncomfortable.

### Remember!

- 1 Always accept what children say about being bullied or abused or about feeling uncomfortable.
- 1 Let them know they are not to blame and that they were right to tell you.
- 1 Let them know what you will do next.



### For more support with creating a reading club where everyone feels safe and respected:

- ▶ visit the Childline website ([www.childlinesa.org.za](http://www.childlinesa.org.za)) or contact Childline directly (08000 55 555).
- ▶ Google “Global Fund for Children’s Child Protection Manual” and download this useful guide for free.





## Naming your reading club

Choosing a name for your reading club is important because the name needs to make children want to join the reading club – and then to keep coming! So your reading club's name needs to be positive and something the children are proud of.

### Ideas to include in your reading club's name.

- ▶ The name of the area where your reading club meets, for example, *Boksburg*.
- ▶ Words that rhyme or start with the same letter, for example, the *Boksburg Bookworms*.
- ▶ Words that encourage children to believe in themselves, for example, *Boksburg's Bright Sparks*.
- ▶ Words that describe the reading club members, for example, *Future Leaders of Fordsburg*.

You could add two or more of these elements together to create a name for your reading club. You could also ask the children for suggestions for a reading club name and then vote to choose the one that is the most popular.



## What to do if there are a lot of children at your reading club

If you run a big reading club, try to make sure that there is one adult for every 10 children. If this is not possible, then try some of these tips to help you manage a larger group of children.

- ★ **Follow the same routine** every time you meet. This helps the children to know what is coming next which makes it easier for them to move from one activity to the next. (You can find examples of good reading club programmes on pages 20 and 21.)
- ★ **Choose songs and games** that don't need a lot of space for moving around. For example, games where everyone is standing in a circle or in the same place are easier to play than games where children need to move freely around the room. Songs and clapping games need very little space!
- ★ Have an **attention-grabber**, for example, clap out a rhythm five times as a signal to the children that they need to stop what they are doing and listen to an instruction.
- ★ If you need to **calm the children down** before reading or telling a story, ask them to take slow, deep breaths. You can do this in a fun way, for example, by asking them to use their breath to show how the wind blows on a stormy day, a windy day and then a calm day.
- ★ Choose story-related activities that **do not need a lot of space**. For example, making the cut-out-and-keep books from the Nal'ibali Supplement, doing the activities on the "Nal'ibali fun" page of the supplement, doing a drawing activity related to a story you have told or read to them, doing a writing activity related to a story, and reading books on their own or in pairs.
- ★ **Divide the children** up into smaller groups of about eight doing different story-related activities, so that you have enough resources to go around. Let each group do the activity for a while before trying one of the other activities. For example, in a reading club of 40 children you would have five groups, each doing a different activity.





# Resources for your reading club

It is important to choose books and stories for your reading club that the children will enjoy, so that they keep coming back again and again!

There are many ways to build up your reading club's resources. *Story Power Guide 2* offers you some help with this.

On page 6, you will find ideas on how to get reading materials.

## Finding reading resources

Children learn to read by reading! Once the seed of reading has been planted, you need to keep nurturing it so that their love of reading grows through. This means making sure that your reading club has lots of interesting things that children will love to read. Here are some ideas to help you do this:

- Buy books**  
Organise events, like a book or comic sale, to raise money to buy books for your club. You can look for cheaper books at bargain bookshops, second-hand bookshops and charity book sales.
- Borrow books**  
Your public or school library is a great source of free reading material. Call all your reading club members and encourage them to join up so that you can borrow lots of different books.
- Get books as gifts**  
Ask everyone you know to donate a book to your club on their birthday.
- Book collection drives**  
Ask all the schools or churches in your area to collect books for your club. Remember to make sure that all donated books are appropriate for the children of your club!
- Get the Net!**  
Create your own library of books using the internet and keep books in the 'Story corner' section. These have only a large sheet of cardboard. Cover this with plastic or cling-wrap to protect it.
- Find free stories**  
Visit websites where you can download stories for children and teenagers. Visit [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk), [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk), [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk) and [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk). You can also find stories for children in different languages that you can download and print for your club. Visit [www.kidzworld.com](http://www.kidzworld.com) for more ideas.
- Become story writers**  
Write your own stories for and with children. Children are a talking, being resource, with their own rich stories just waiting to be told, written down and read.
- Be story writers**  
Look for stories in newspapers and magazines that you think would interest members of your reading club. Cut them out and use them to create story cards.

Children who like reading are motivated to read and are more confident and better readers than children who do not like reading. *Program in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2001*

## Creating a print-rich environment

How much print is there in your children's environment? Do they see signs, notices, advertisements, magazines, posters, books, letters, emails, newspapers and magazines around them as they go about their daily lives? And how many languages are these things written in?

Children learn to read more easily when they are surrounded by print because print-rich environments allow them to read and writing can be used for:

- Create posters**  
Think about what interests the children who attend your club and make your own posters on these topics. Draw your own pictures or use ones from newspapers and magazines. Then write advertisements, slogans or messages in one or more languages to complete the posters. Display the posters where it is easy for the children to read them, and replace them regularly to keep the children interested!
- Make rhymes, songs and riddle posters**  
Write rhymes, songs and riddles in different languages onto large sheets of paper. Ask the children and their family members for suggestions and use the ones you know as well!
- Be a story reader!**  
Read to and with children. Talk about your own reading habits – what you are reading, where you like to read, who your favourite authors are and why. You can also write for and with the children.

room and use pegs to hang up the letters in alphabetical order.

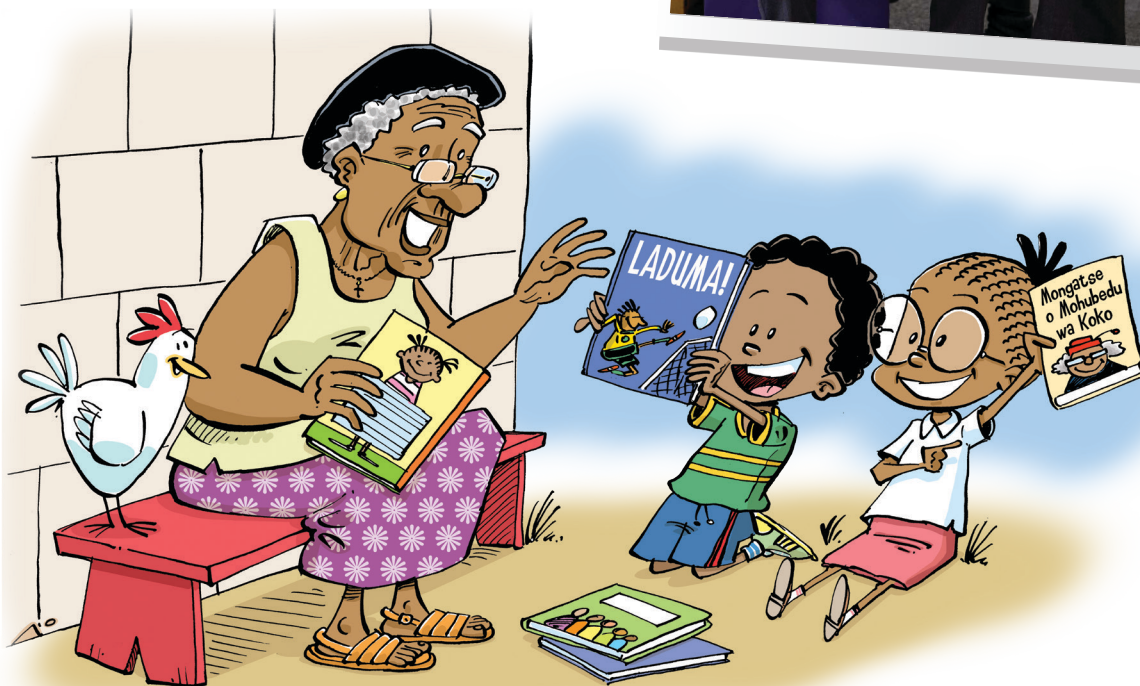
**4. Collaborate with print**  
Collect different types of writing that you think would interest the children. To be had take away menus, old greeting cards, train or bus timetables, television programmes, advertisements, flyers, newspapers and magazines. The children may enjoy reading some of these, but they can also use them as props when they tell stories, or cut them up when they make their own cards, posters, notices or books.

**5. Use the library**  
Borrow books from your library – it's an endless supply of free reading material! Remind the children about how to look after books so that they can be enjoyed by lots of other children too!

**6. Be a story reader!**  
Read to and with children. Talk about your own reading habits – what you are reading, where you like to read, who your favourite authors are and why. You can also write for and with the children.

**7. Make an alphabet writing line**  
Together with the children, write letters of the alphabet on separate sheets of paper and draw a picture for each letter. Children love to draw a picture of themselves to go with the first letter of their name! Put a piece of string across the

On page 7, you'll find ideas for how to make sure that the children at your reading club are surrounded by as many interesting things to read as possible.





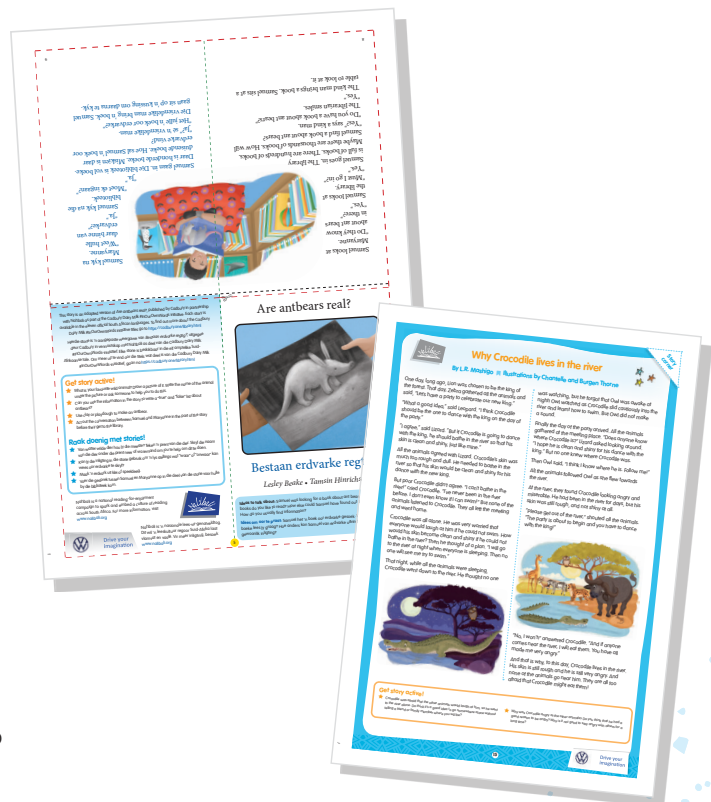
# Using the Nal'ibali Supplement at your reading club

The Nal'ibali Supplement is a bilingual reading-for-enjoyment resource. It is available in all 11 South African language. Each versions is in English plus one of the following languages: isiXhosa, isiZulu, isiNdebele, Xitsonga, Sesotho, Sepedi, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda or Afrikaans.

The supplement is filled with stories and activities that can be used at reading clubs. Reading clubs across South Africa use them in different ways, depending on their own book supply and the other resources they have, as well as the age range of the children. Here are some ideas you might like to try.



- ✦ **Make resources to use again.** Take the cut-out-and-keep book pages out of the supplement. On your own or with the children, make these into books for the reading club. Make story cards by pasting the Story Corner stories onto pieces of card and covering them with plastic.
- ✦ **Support biliteracy.** Learn to read in two languages! Read the cut-out-and-keep books first in your most familiar language and then in the second language.
- ✦ **Store stories.** Store your cut-out-and-keep books and story cards in any container – like a shoe box or used ice cream container – and then keep them in a special place at your reading club, so that the children know where to find them if they want to read or borrow them.



✧ **Take stories home.** Create a lending library for reading club members so that they can borrow the cut-out-and-keep books and story cards to read at home with family members. Also, share information with parents and other caregivers by sending home page 1 of the supplement for them to read.



✧ **Read to a group.** Choose a cut-out-and-keep book from the supplement to read aloud to the children. Let them follow in their own copies as you read. Then let the children try the “Get story active!” activity, which extends and deepens the children’s understanding of the story.



✧ **Read alone and in pairs.** Let the children choose which cut-out-and-keep book or story card they would like to read with a volunteer or partner. Invite older children to read on their own or to younger children.

✧ **Tell stories.** Use the Story Corner stories for storytelling.

✧ **Spread the word.** Children can make their own libraries at home by collecting the cut-out-and-keep books. Older children might like to start small reading clubs of their own by inviting other children to come to their homes to share the supplement stories.

To find out more about the Nalibali Supplement or to download past editions for free, go to [www.nalibali.org/story-resources/multilingual-story-supplements](http://www.nalibali.org/story-resources/multilingual-story-supplements). You can also find out more by emailing [supplements@nalibali.org](mailto:supplements@nalibali.org).





## Resources for children with special needs

Every child has the right to read and hear stories. You can reach out to children with special needs by making sure that you have the kinds of books and stories that meet their needs. For example:

- Books in Braille or with specially created pictures that children can feel (tactile books), as well as audio books for children who are blind or partially sighted.
- Sign language videos for children who are deaf.



### Whom to contact

- Download and share audio stories from the **Nal'ibali website** ([www.nalibali.org/stories/audio-stories](http://www.nalibali.org/stories/audio-stories)). You can also contact Nal'ibali for stories in Braille and South African Sign Language.
- The **South African Library for the Blind (SALB)** may be able to help you find similar organisations nearer to you. Contact them by calling **046 622 7226**, or send a letter to PO Box 115, Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, South Africa, 6140. Email [braillelib@salb.org.za](mailto:braillelib@salb.org.za) about resources in Braille, and [audiolib@salb.org.za](mailto:audiolib@salb.org.za) about audio resources.
- The **Sign Language Education and Development Centre (SLED)** develops learning materials and stories for people who are deaf or have partial hearing. Contact them by calling **021 448 2520** or email them at [sasl@sled.org.za](mailto:sasl@sled.org.za).





# Ideas for reading club activities

There are lots of activities you can do at your reading club to help children learn to love stories and reading, and to keep them coming back again and again.

★ **Games and songs** help children to relax and feel welcome. Any songs are good. Try traditional songs or songs you remember from your childhood!

★ **Reading aloud and telling stories** provides rich language, teaches children how stories work while stimulating their thinking, imagination and empathy.

★ **Writing activities** help children discover how print in books works. Write with them regularly for meaningful purposes, like writing a shopping list or a birthday card for a friend.

★ **Talking about books and stories** stimulates critical thinking and develops children's understanding of the world around them.



**What to do at a reading club**

Do you need some help with reading club activities? Here are some suggestions. Certain activities are great to do each time you meet. Choose from the other activities depending on how they fit with the books and clubs you are doing and how much time you have. Change some activities each week to help keep your reading club sessions fresh and interesting and to encourage the children to attend regularly!

- **Games and songs:** These are fun ways to start a session. Teach the children the games and songs that you used to play and sing on a CD and play some that become the song songs in the home languages of all the children and also in other languages.
- **Reading aloud and storytelling:** Read aloud and tell a story in each session to share adventures and experiences that read life doesn't offer. Children will become excited and curious about new topics so they'll be eager to learn – and their vocabularies will grow too!
- **Reading together and alone:** Let children who can already read, share books together in small groups or pairs. They can also read to other children in the club who are not yet reading, just by having a child read to you or by reading to a small group of children. Sometimes do let children spend time alone with a book, reading quietly or looking at the pictures and telling their own story. Spending time with books in these ways encourages children to choose and share books they are interested in.
- **Talking about books:** Introduce new books by showing them to the children and telling them a little bit about each one to get them curious and keen to read.
- **Writing:** Give children different opportunities to write. They can make their own books to read themselves and share with others, or write about books they have read, or make greeting cards for friends and family. Offer to help children who do not yet have the confidence to write on their own by writing down what they tell you.
- **Art, crafts and drama:** Encourage the children to paint or draw pictures, or to make puppets or other objects related to the story you have read or told. It's always time for the children to act it out!

Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/readingclub](https://www.facebook.com/readingclub) every day for more reading club inspiration and activity ideas – or share your ideas with us!

You can find out more about these activities on page 5 of *Story Power Guide 2*.

## 8 benefits of reading aloud

A benefit is something that is helpful to us. For example, a benefit of drinking water is that it keeps us hydrated.

Reading aloud to children:

1. shows them that you value books and reading
2. gives you things to talk about together
3. builds a bond between you and them
4. allows them to experience reading as something fun to do
5. motivates them to learn to read for themselves, and then to keep reading
6. shows them how we read and how books work
7. let's them enjoy stories that might be beyond their current reading ability
8. develops their vocabulary and language abilities.



## Talking about books and stories

Reading aloud also gives us a chance to talk to children about books and stories. In fact, doing this is just as important as reading the words to them! By discussing the pictures and characters, and what is happening in a story, children learn about how books work and how to explore them.

Rather than trying to “teach” children, just let the conversation flow naturally as you enjoy a book or story together. Here are some ideas for helping the conversation along. Choose ideas that fit best with the book you are reading. And remember that the idea is always to explore books together rather than to “test” children’s understanding of what you have read. Tests are never fun!

- 📖 **Learning to guess what comes next.** Being able to guess what comes next while reading, is a skill that readers use all the time. As you read, develop children’s prediction skills by asking, “What do you think will happen next?” at various points in the story. It doesn’t matter if the prediction is incorrect – what’s important is that your children participate and try. Being able to predict what comes next is a valuable skill people use all their lives.
- 📖 **Paying attention to detail.** Encourage children to look carefully at and enjoy the illustrations in picture books. Point out the different parts of the illustration on a page, comment on these parts yourself and ask them to do so too. Ask younger children to find particular characters (like a gogo if there’s a gogo in the story) or count the number of objects in a picture (like how many cars they see in a picture). Draw their attention to the size of a large or small word on the page, or the interesting sound a word makes as you say it. With older children, talk about why they think the author might have chosen a particular word.
- 📖 **Connecting with stories.** Many stories focus on how characters deal with challenges that they face in life. It is powerful for children to relate these things to their own lives. Encourage them to make strong connections, by saying something like, “This story reminds me of how important it is to treat people well. What does it remind you of?”







- **Exploring cause and effect.** Thinking about the causes and effects of events and of characters' feelings and actions, deepens children's understanding about how stories and life work! Help them to do this by asking questions like, "Why do you think [*name an event*] happened?" and "Why do you think [*name a character*] did that?"
- **Sharing opinions and ideas.** As you read together, say what you think and ask children what they think too. This helps them to learn how to approach books. Try discussing parts of the story once you have finished reading it. For example, you could ask, "Did you enjoy the story?", "Who are your favourite characters?", "Which part of the story did you like the most/the least?" and "How did it make you feel?" Allow the children to talk to each other and to you about these things.
- **Asking questions.** We can help children to develop their critical thinking skills by encouraging them to talk about stories and ask open-ended questions. Closed questions only ask children to repeat information or facts from the story, while open-ended questions are the kind of questions that help children think creatively and solve problems, both of which are valuable life skills. Here are some examples.

Open-ended question	Closed question
Why do you think the girl is looking so sad?	When did the girl feel sad?
If you were the father, what would you have done?	What did the father do?
How do you think the boy felt after he lost his mother's money? Have you ever lost anything that belongs to someone else? How did you feel?	How much money did the boy lose? Where did he lose it?

- **Responding to questions.** Young children often ask, "Why?" You can either answer their questions by sharing your ideas ("I think it is because ...") or you can ask, "Why do *you* think ...?"



# Reading club programmes

Some activities are great to do every time your reading club meets. Other activities can be included only sometimes, depending on the books and stories you are sharing and how much time you have. If you do some of the same activities each week and change others, you will keep your reading club sessions fresh and interesting, and the children will be encouraged to attend regularly!

## One-hour programme

Here is an example of some reading club activities organised into a programme that lasts one hour.

Activity	Time
<b>Register:</b> record attendance/admin	5 minutes
<b>Songs and games:</b> a song and/or a short game	5 minutes
<b>Check-in:</b> share experiences and feelings	10 minutes
<b>Reading a story aloud/storytelling:</b> read or tell a story to the children and then discuss it with them	10 minutes
<b>Split children into small groups of five, with one volunteer per group</b>	
<b>Reading:</b> children read in pairs or small groups, or on their own (silent reading)	20 minutes
<b>Story extension activities:</b> do a creative activity based on the story you read or told – do a drawing or writing activity; role-play; or retell, change or review the story. You can find other ideas in the “Get story active!” section of the Nal’ibali Supplement or on the website	10 minutes





## Two-hour programme

Here is an example of some reading club activities organised into a programme that lasts two hours.

Activity	Time
<b>Register and song:</b> record attendance and sing a song together	10 minutes
<b>Free voluntary reading:</b> children read independently, in pairs or in a group	15 minutes
<b>Songs and games</b>	10 minutes
<b>Check-in:</b> children share experiences, feelings or stories, or read their own writing	15 minutes
<b>Reading a story aloud/storytelling:</b> read or tell a story to the children and then discuss it with them	10 minutes
<b>Split children into small groups of five, with one volunteer per group</b>	
<b>Story extension activities:</b> do a creative activity based on the story read or told – do arts and crafts; role-play; or retell, change or review the story. You can find other ideas in the “Get story active!” section of the Nal’ibali Supplement or on the website	30 minutes
<b>Reading and writing activities:</b> writing book reviews, making posters, making books, creating a story chain, writing a story, doing activities from the Nal’ibali Supplement	30 minutes







# READING CLUB PERMISSION FORM



Reading Club

\_\_\_\_\_

<name of club>

\_\_\_\_\_

<school or site name>

\_\_\_\_\_

<name of reading club leader>

\_\_\_\_\_

<contact number of reading club leader>

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please read and sign this permission form to ensure your child's participation in a Nal'ibali reading club.
2. Please also tick the statements from (1) to (3) to show that you agree to them.
3. Then return the form to the reading club leader.

PLEASE NOTE: Only a parent or guardian can sign this form and only children who return this form may attend the reading club.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand and agree to the following:  
<name of parent/guardian>

1.  My child may attend the Nal'ibali reading club from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
<include times>  
every \_\_\_\_\_  
<insert day/s of the week>
2.  Photos and video material may be taken of my child during the reading club activities. These may be shared in the media and/or for research purposes as part of the Nal'ibali reading-for-enjoyment campaign.
3.  My child may go on any reading club outings/attend events, which may entail travel outside of the reading club site.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's emergency contact numbers:

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate number: \_\_\_\_\_

If your child has any **allergies** or **medical conditions**, please list them here:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# My reading passport



## How to use your passport

1. Read through all the challenges. Then write down your own reading challenge for number 10.
2. Try each of the reading challenges during the year. You do not have to do them in order.
3. Colour in each challenge block once you have completed the challenge.

Name: .....  
Year: .....

### Challenge 1

Hope likes stories about everyday life – especially stories about groups of friends and stories that take place at school. Enjoy reading one or more stories that have friends in them and/or have something to do with school.



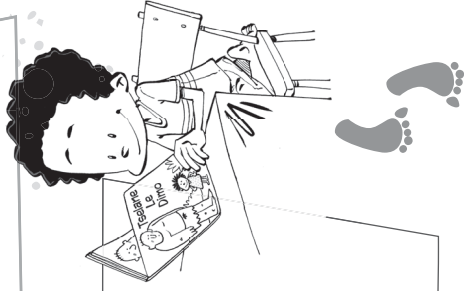
### Challenge 2

Neo and Priya love playing soccer, so they enjoy soccer stories. Read stories about children or adults who have the same hobby as you, or who enjoy playing the same sport as you.



### Challenge 3

Afrika likes reading traditional stories. His favourite is "Tselame and the giant". Take the time to read some traditional stories. Re-read ones that are your favourites and also find ones that you have not read before.



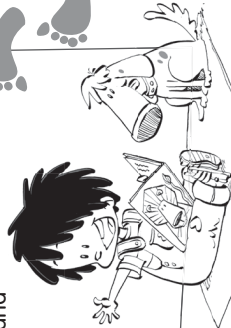
### Challenge 7

Bella and Neo like fantasy stories. Bella likes stories about queens and Neo likes stories about pirates. Do you enjoy these kinds of stories? What fantasy characters do you enjoy reading about? Try reading some stories that take you on a trip to a fantasy world.



### Challenge 6

Bella likes books about animals. Do you have a favourite story or information book about animals? Read it again, and then find new ones about animals to read.



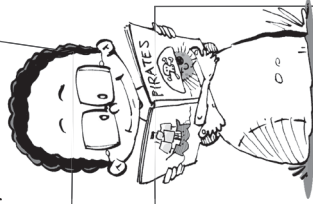
### Challenge 5

Afrika loves anything to do with inventions, and he enjoys making things himself! Find books that tell you how to make things – food or objects. Choose some of the things from these books to make. Follow the instructions for making them.



### Challenge 4

Priya loves it when her granny reads to her about people who have discovered interesting things about the universe! Try reading about people who made discoveries in science, history or the natural world. One of them may become your favourite explorer!



### Challenge 8

Josh often reads to Neo and Bella. Choose a book you enjoy and find someone to read it to. (If the book is a novel, you might want to choose one or two chapters to read.)

### Challenge 9

Priya and Neo often tell each other about stories that they have just read! Ask some of your friends about stories that they have enjoyed reading. Then find these stories and read them yourself.



### Challenge 10

Your own challenge:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



# MONTHLY READING CLUB ACTIVITY REPORT

Name: .....

Reading club: .....

Date: .....

Province: .....

Provincial coordinator: .....



[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)

This report needs to be submitted each month to your Nal'ibali provincial coordinator by the last day of the month.

	QUESTION	ANSWER
READING CLUB	How often does your reading club meet?	
	Do you have a Story Sparker or volunteer assisting you? If yes, please state names and how many.	
	What are the ages of the children in your reading club?	
	Do you follow the one-hour or two-hour programme format?	
CHILDREN	How many children are currently enrolled in your reading club?	
	Have any children left your reading club this month? If yes, why?	
	Do you have space for more children in your reading club?	
MATERIALS	Which stories have you read this month?	
	Which stories were enjoyed the most?	
	Do you use the Nal'ibali Supplement? If yes, which sections do you use? For example: The cut-out-and-keep story, Get story active!, Get creative.	
ACTIVITIES	Which activities have you done this month?	
	Which activities were enjoyed the most?	
	Are there any activities you think you could do better?	
SUPPORT	Are there areas you need support in?	
	Is there anything you would like us to do differently?	
	Do you have any questions, queries or concerns?	
OBSERVATIONS	Are there any specific observations you would like to discuss?	

# Nal'ibali Calendar

Join us in celebrating  
the power of stories &  
reading throughout  
the year!



## January

### Special days:

Creativity Month

**25** Multicultural Children's Book Day

My notes

## February

### Special days:

**1** World Read Aloud Day

**21** International Mother Language Day

My notes

## March

### Special days:

**20** World Storytelling Day

**21** World Poetry Day

My notes

## April

### Special days:

**2** International Children's Book Day

**23** World Book Day

My notes

## May

### Special days:

Get-Caught-Reading Month

**25** Africa Day

My notes

## June

### Special days:

Youth Month

**30** Social Media Day

My notes

## July

### Special days:

**1** International Joke Day

**18** Mandela Day

**30** Paperback Book Day

My notes

## August

### Special days:

**9** Book Lovers' Day

**21** Poets' Day

My notes

## September

### Special days:

Heritage and Literacy Month

**8** International Literacy Day

My notes

## October

### Special days:

International School Library Month

**16** Dictionary Day

My notes

## November

### Special days:

International Picture Book Month

**15** I-Love-to-Write Day

My notes

## December

### Special days:

**5** International Volunteer Day

**7** Letter Writing Day

My notes

VISIT

[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)

[f nalibaliSA](https://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA)

[@nalibaliSA](https://www.tumblr.com/nalibaliSA)

[@nalibaliSA](https://www.instagram.com/nalibaliSA)

*Nal'ibali*  
IT STARTS WITH  
A STORY.

# Connect with Nal'ibali

Join the Nal'ibali network and unleash the power of stories to inspire children to read and write.



## Nal'ibali supplements

Get your free Nal'ibali Supplement in the Eyethu Umlazi (KZN) and Polokwane Observer (Limpopo). Supplements are also available to download for free in all 11 South African languages at [www.nalibali.org/stories](http://www.nalibali.org/stories).

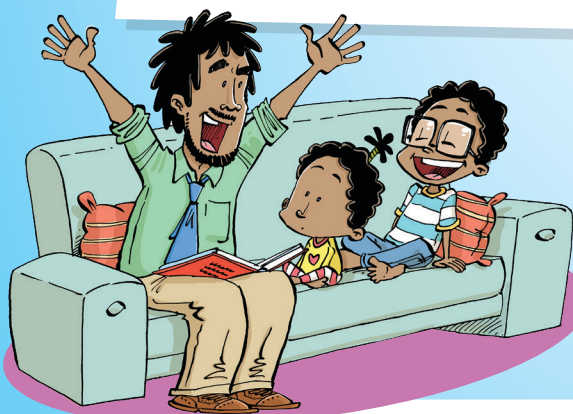


## Nal'ibali on radio

Listen to Nal'ibali's radio stories in all 11 South African languages on SABC public stations. Find the radio schedule at [www.nalibali.org/stories/audio-stories](http://www.nalibali.org/stories/audio-stories).

## [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)

Visit the Nal'ibali website for free tips, videos, reading club activities, programmes and campaigns.



## WhatsApp

Simply WhatsApp "stories" to 0600 44 22 54 for free stories in your language. You can also complete Nal'ibali's free training modules - WhatsApp "courses" to 0600 44 22 54.

## Social media

Join the conversation on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram. Check out our YouTube video channel [www.youtube.com/user/TheNalibaliChannel](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheNalibaliChannel).



Contact Nal'ibali in any of these ways:

[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org)

[info@nalibali.org](mailto:info@nalibali.org)

[nalibaliSA](https://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA)

[@nalibaliSA](https://twitter.com/@nalibaliSA)

[@nalibaliSA](https://www.instagram.com/@nalibaliSA)

[0600 44 22 54](https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNalibaliChannel)

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IT STARTS WITH  
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