

Story Power

A guide to running a
reading-for-enjoyment
holiday programme



Malibari

Welcome!



Do you want to show children that reading is something that they can do anywhere and anytime? Do you want to make sure that they don't think of reading as something that happens only in their classrooms? Running a holiday programme that has reading for enjoyment as its focus is an excellent way of doing this!

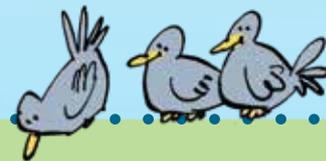
During the school holidays children are able to relax and have a change of routine. So, school holidays are a good time to get children hooked on reading, or to keep them in the habit of reading for enjoyment!

If you want to know how to run a reading-for-enjoyment holiday programme, then this Story Power guide is for you! In it you'll find tips for planning and running a programme, as well as ideas for fun activities to include.

Join us in keeping children motivated to read throughout the year.

The Nal'ibali team

PS: This guide is available in other South African languages. Look out for other guides in the Story Power series. Go to www.nalibali.org.



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What is a reading-for-enjoyment holiday programme?



Reading for enjoyment doesn't have to end when reading clubs take a break! Holiday programmes can provide spaces for children to continue enjoying and exploring stories during the school holidays.

In reading-for-enjoyment holiday programmes the emphasis is always on reading for pleasure! The activities that make up the programmes have one aim: to spark and sustain children's love of reading and stories.

There are many benefits to holiday programmes that focus on reading for enjoyment. Here are some of them.

- ★ Holiday programmes help children to see reading as something you do in your free time. Seeing reading as an enjoyable leisure time activity is an important step in helping children to become lifelong readers.
- ★ Holidays are usually less busy times. This means that there is more time available for reading-for-enjoyment activities than there is during the school term. So, holiday programmes can be relaxed and they can run for longer each day than reading-club sessions do during term times.

- ★ Children who aren't already members of a reading club can be included in holiday programmes. This introduces them to how satisfying stories, books and reading can be. It encourages them to become regular readers and even to join a reading club!
- ★ Holiday programmes keep children busy and entertained in relaxed and safe environments. They are especially important if the children's parents are working, and in communities where there are not a lot of things for children to do during the school holidays.

Children attend reading-for-enjoyment holiday programmes not because someone has told them that they have to, nor because they are rewarded for doing so. They attend simply because it is a fun and satisfying thing to do!

You can find out more about reading for enjoyment in Story Power Guide 1, which is available at www.nalibali.org.



Planning and running a holiday programme

So you've decided to run a reading-for-enjoyment holiday programme! There isn't only one correct way to do this. Use what excites you about stories and books to help you create a fun and inspiring programme.

But whatever activities you choose, proper planning is important. Here are some ideas to guide you.

- ★ **Who?** Holiday programmes can be run by parents, librarians, teachers, reading club leaders or tertiary students. And you don't have to do it alone! Get volunteers to help you. Ask adults who love stories and reading to become involved in the whole programme, or to offer an activity that is their speciality, like storytelling or art and crafts.
- ★ **How many?** Use the number of volunteers you can find to help you decide how many children you can accommodate. Ten children to one adult usually works well. But you will need to be flexible too. Remember that some of the children may not attend every day and on some days you may have more children than you planned for.
- ★ **Where?** You can run a holiday programme anywhere that is safe and has enough space – at a school, a library, a community hall, a church, a mosque or a temple. Try to choose a place that will not expect you and the children to be too quiet – it's difficult to be quiet when you're getting excited about stories!
- ★ **What?** You will need stories to tell and read, as well as other reading material for the children. Try to have as wide a variety of reading material as possible, such as picture books, novels, information books, poems, rhymes and magazines. This will ensure that everyone can find something that they'd like to read. You'll probably need extra resources for some of the other activities you are planning, for example, paper; cardboard; recycled materials, like cereal boxes, egg cartons and bottle tops;

kokis; crayons; pencil crayons; scissors; glue; paint and brushes; playdough and clay. Things like pieces of fabric, scarves, hats and masks make good props for acting out stories.

Planning tips

1. Draw up a programme of activities for each day. (There is an example of a programme on the next page.) Choose different types of activities to keep the programme interesting. Many of the activities can relate to the stories you have chosen, but include other reading or writing activities too. Remember that many of the children will come back day after day so you will need different stories, songs and games. Practise doing the stories and activities you've chosen so that you know how much time they'll take to complete.
2. Advertise your holiday programme at school parent meetings, in newsletters and on notice boards at libraries, clinics and schools.
3. Organise a sign-up day so that you know how many children will be taking part in the programme. This will help you decide what resources you need. Invite parents and other caregivers to come and register their children for the programme about two weeks before it starts. (There is an example of a registration form at www.nalibali.org, or you can design your own.)
4. Plan how you will make the venue attractive. Think about how to set up quieter areas where children will be able to look at or read books on their own, and other areas suitable for the activities you're planning.



An example of a holiday programme



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00–09:15	Song 1	Game 1	Rhyme	Song 2	Game 2
09:15–09:30	Introduction activity (Getting to know you: page 6)	Introduction activity (Making choices: page 6)	Tell a story	Read-aloud story 3: read aloud to whole group	Read-aloud story 4: read aloud to whole group
09:30–10:00	Read-aloud story 1: read aloud to whole group	Read-aloud story 2: read aloud to whole group	Story talk: discussion of today's story	Story talk: discussion of today's story	Story talk: discussion of today's story
10:00–10:45	Small group discussion: Topic: Stories we know; stories we like	Art activity linked to today's story	Arts and crafts linked to today's story	Arts and crafts linked to today's story	Drama activity linked to today's story (Acting out the story in groups)
10:45–11:00	Snack and toilet break				
11:00–11:45	Writing activity (Creating a story wall: page 7)	Writing activity linked to today's story (Writing to one of the characters)	Drama activity linked to today's story	Writing activity (Making books: page 6 / Creating a story wheel: page 7)	Making up stories (Adding some words: page 6)
11:45–12:05	Reading books alone and/or in pairs	Reading books alone and/or in pairs	Reading books alone and/or in pairs	Reading books alone and/or in pairs	Reading books alone and/or in pairs
12:05–12:15	Repeat song 1 and say goodbye	Repeat song 1 and say goodbye	Repeat song 1 or rhyme and say goodbye	Repeat songs 1 and 2 or rhyme and say goodbye	Repeat songs 1 and 2 or rhyme and say goodbye

15 holiday programme activity ideas



- 1. Getting to know you.** Prepare by cutting out any large pictures from magazines or newspapers and pasting them onto sheets of paper. Then write three questions on the back of each picture that children could use to introduce themselves to others, for example, "What is your name? What do you do for fun? What is your favourite story?" Next cut each of the pictures into four pieces and put the pieces of all the pictures together into a packet. Start the activity by letting each child take one picture piece from the packet. Ask them to find the other three children who have the pieces to complete the picture and then they should answer the questions together.
- 2. Making choices.** Draw or find pictures of two objects, for example, a flower and some chocolate. Display the pictures so all the children can see them. Divide the children into groups and ask them to discuss which of the two objects they would choose if they could only have one and the reason for their choice. Invite someone from each group to tell everyone what was discussed in their group.
- 3. Singing and playing.** Songs, rhymes and games are fun ways to start and end each day. Teach the children the songs, rhymes and games you used to sing, say and play as a child, as well as other ones they know. Sing songs in the home languages of all the children and also in other languages.
- 4. Reading and telling stories.** Read aloud and/or tell stories regularly, and then make time afterwards to talk about them with the children. Also find time for the children to read or look at books alone or in pairs.
- 5. Making books.** Make books by stapling blank sheets of paper together and let the children use these to create their own storybooks. Older children can draw and write on their own. Younger children can draw the pictures for the story and then you can write the words they tell you. Let the children read their books to each other!
- 6. Making alphabet books.** Do this with younger children or invite older children to make one for a younger child they know. Write each letter of the alphabet on a separate sheet of paper and staple them together into a book. Then suggest that the children draw or find pictures of familiar things for each letter, for example, an Aloe or aardvark for "A".
- 7. Adding some words.** Show the children a wordless picture book and then challenge them to use the pictures to make up as many different stories as they can!



8. Creating a story wall. Find some wall space in your venue. Give the children paper, crayons and pencils and ask them to write and draw about stories they enjoy. Display the children's writing and drawings on the wall.

9. Designing a menu. Ask the children to imagine that they have invited their favourite storybook characters to lunch or for tea. Let them write a menu of what they will offer their characters to eat and drink.

10. Creating a story wheel. Divide the children into groups and give each group a sheet of paper with a large circle divided into six equal segments – like an orange – on it. Let one child in each group start off the story by writing and/or drawing the beginning of the story in one of the circle segments. The children take turns to build on the story by writing in the other segments until the story is finished. Then they can decide on a title for their story and enjoy reading it together!

11. Recording memories. Invite the children to draw pictures, use photographs, cut out words from newspapers and magazines, and add their own words to create posters called: My memories.

12. Guessing the story. Let the children work in teams to mime a scene from a story everyone knows and then the other teams guess the name of the story.



13. Writing and acting. Select one of the stories from your holiday programme. With the children, write down what each character says and then let the children choose which character they want to be. Provide props, like pieces of fabric, hats, shoes or clothes and let them act out the story.

14. Hosting guests. Invite authors, illustrators, storytellers and actors to talk to the children and share stories with them.

15. Going out. Take the children on an outing to see a play, or to explore your local library, or to visit somewhere related to a story you've told or read together.



You can find more reading-for-enjoyment activities in our other Story Power Guides. Go to www.nalibali.org.

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Become part of the Nal'ibali network and use the power of stories to inspire children to want to read and write.

Visit our different platforms for reading-for-enjoyment resources and tips, and children's stories in 11 languages.

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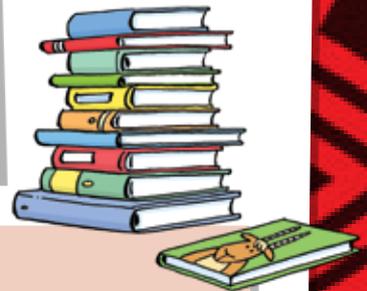
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