



Going to Toddler Storytime at Albert Park 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 Albert
Park Library.



The library is on a busy street.

There will be cars on the road.

There will be people shopping nearby



There can be lots of people at the library.

People may stand close together at the door.

My trusted adult will help me stay safe and comfortable.



Sometimes a dog might be outside the library.

I may need to walk past the dog to get inside.

I can stay close to my trusted adult when I walk past.



I will walk into the
foyer. It has sliding
doors.



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.



People may leave their prams near the storytime area.

This can make the area look busy and crowded.



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

I can read a book or eat a snack.



The toilets are
opposite the
librarian's desk.

I need to walk down
a corridor to get to
the toilets.



There are hand
dryers in the toilets.

They make a loud
noise.



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.



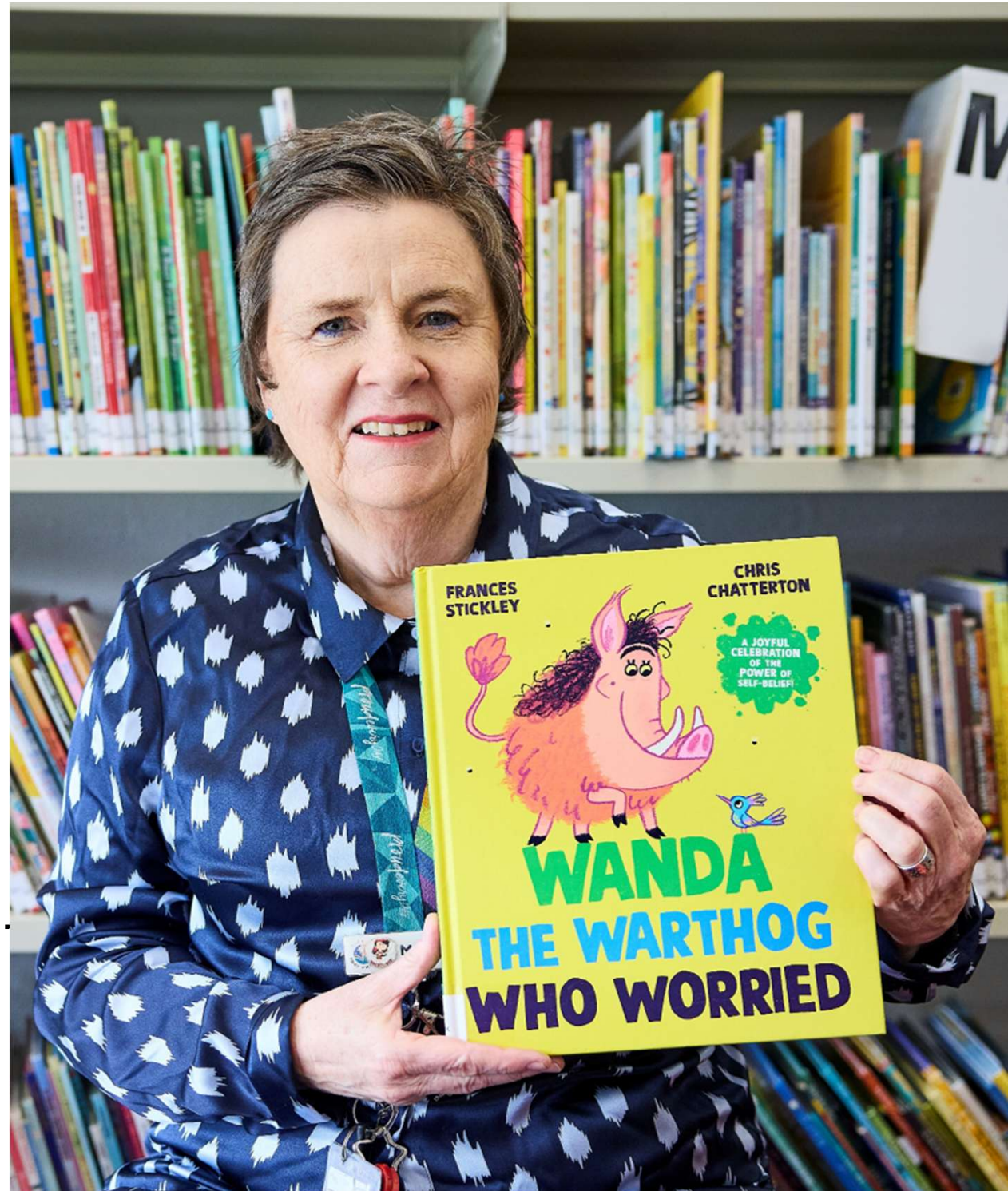
Storytime can be busy. Sometimes there are lots of people.

We will check the library website before we visit.

Together, we will choose the best storytime for me.



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



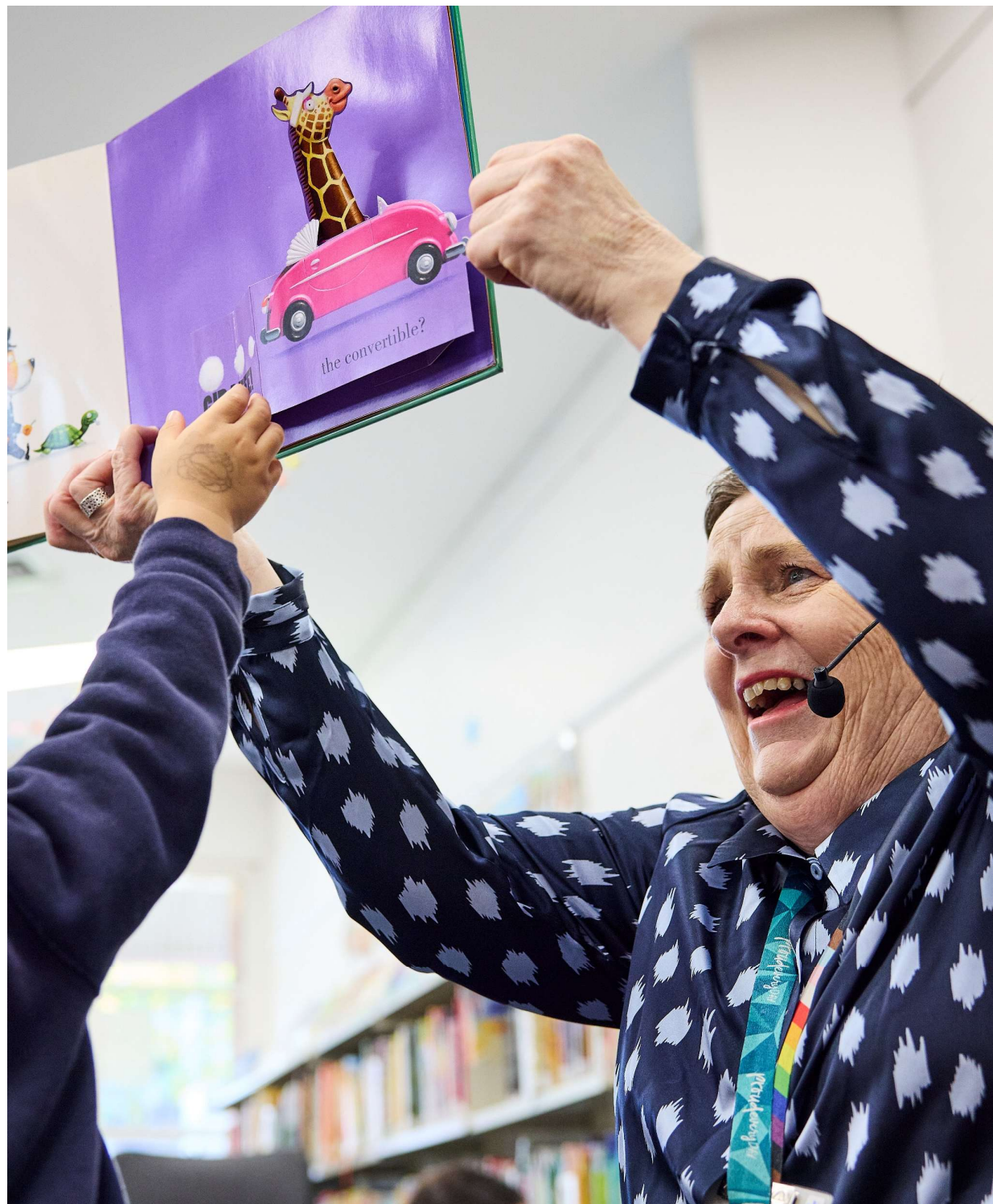
There are many
storytellers at the
library.

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.

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.

I can come back if I
feel like it.



After storytime I can
draw and play. There
may be bubbles to
watch and pop.

I can get a stamp on
my hand if I want to.

The librarian may need
to touch my hand to
put the stamp on.



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

 319 Montague Street, Albert Park

 9209 6622

 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**