



These strategies have been developed recognising that parental involvement is vital to a child's success at school and targeted strategies and resources designed to support shared reading between parents and children are very effective. Over the next year, the program will target almost 9000 four- and five-year-old children through a trial in selected remote, regional, and metropolitan communities. This pilot will provide WA with a fully integrated early literacy program, bringing together education, health, and libraries, for a sustainable and valuable investment in the future.

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## Cooperation leads to open doors to early literacy

Thanks to librarians' typical cooperative nature, three early childhood literacy specialists from Seattle USA will be visiting libraries in Victoria, SA, NSW, and Tasmania in October this year.

Noise Guy, Charlie Williams, who toured Australia in 2007, was delighted with the warm Aussie reception and sang our praises to his Seattle colleagues. In early 2008, Seattle-based James Thomas sent an email on ALIA CYSS e-list to gauge interest in a series of workshops on early childhood literacy. Several libraries responded.

In Tasmania, Launceston Library and East Tamar-Launceston Communities for Children submitted a successful funding grant application to the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation. We notified Dr Thomas and started planning. Several months later, Dr Thomas informed us that the other libraries had pulled out. Rather than hand back the funding, a desperate email was sent to the e-list explaining the situation and begging other libraries to support the proposed tour. And they did! Within a few weeks, and with the support of the State

Library of New South Wales, State Library of Victoria, and State Library of South Australia, the tour was back on track.

The workshops will provide proven techniques and current information for using with young children. The presenters are:

- Shannon Schinagl. As well as being a children's librarian, Shannon performs with Sound Safari Theater, the company owned by Charlie 'The Noiseguy' Williams.
- Dr James Thomas, a children's librarian and former library science professor at Texas Woman's University has authored/edited over 24 books on services to children and those with disabilities.
- Nancy Stewart, an award-winning keynote speaker and presenter at numerous early childhood conferences

For information about a workshop in your state, please contact Robyn Burns [robyn@wev.vic.gov.au](mailto:robyn@wev.vic.gov.au) (Victoria), Teresa Brook [brook.teresa@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:brook.teresa@saugov.sa.gov.au) (South Australia), Alexander Mills [alexander@ashfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alexander@ashfield.nsw.gov.au) (New South Wales).

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