

2026 Premier's

**Reading Challenge**

The power of reading

# Early childhood centre information kit



Participation  
weeks  
17-28 August

**Creating reading heroes!**

**DELIVERING  
FOR QUEENSLAND**



**Queensland  
Government**

## ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is an annual state-wide initiative for state and non-state schools and home-educated students up to Year 9, as well as children attending early childhood centres. Since the program's inception in 2006, more than 22 million books have been read. In 2025, 216,000 school, early childhood and individual readers participated in the challenge reading more than 1.9 million books throughout the PRC reading period.

Centres can take part in the challenge by tallying the total number of experiences children have with books and other texts or other literacy activities over a one-week period during the early childhood participation period between 17 – 28 August 2026. Parents/carers can also get involved by reading books at home and recording these on the [early childhood reader record form](#).

The challenge is not a competition, but a way to nurture children's love of reading. Research shows very young children involved in daily activities, such as reading together, storytelling, singing and sharing rhymes will have better vocabulary, language and cognitive skills by the time they start school.

Centres and children who participate in the challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement. In order to receive the certificate, centres must have read at least one book.

### Benefits of literacy activities

Literacy skills are vital to ensuring children have the best chance to succeed in their schooling and in life. The foundations of literacy skills are built in early childhood. The PRC is an opportunity for children to experience a range of different texts that extend their knowledge of the world around them and stimulate their imagination and curiosity. When adults read to children they become familiar with the patterns and rhythm of language, they learn to connect printed words with the story, learn new words and ways of expressing their ideas.

### Key dates

Date	Activity
27 April 2026	Registration opens for early childhood centres via the PRC online database
24 July 2026	Register to participate via the PRC database by this date to receive a printed wall chart to keep track of your centre's progress during the participation period
17 – 28 August 2026	Early childhood centre participation period
31 August – 11 September 2026	Centre achievements entered into the PRC database
11 September 2026	All reading data must be finalised in the database
Early October 2026	Certificates of Achievement mailed to early childhood centres
2 – 13 November 2026	PRC Celebration Weeks

## **Book suggestions**

While there is no compulsory reading list for the challenge, book lists have been developed by teacher librarians in conjunction with the Department of Education's (DoE) Curriculum branch, to help children, teachers, parents and carers select age appropriate material. The book lists are available on the [PRC website](#) and have been divided into year level groups.

The following activities can be counted towards the challenge:

- experiencing a book or text including classroom or at home activities such as shared reading, listening and reading along with a book
- story telling
- being read to.

The following literature forms can be counted towards the challenge:

- printed books
- e-books, virtual books and digital publications
- felt-board stories and stories with puppets
- audio and braille books
- newspapers, magazines and recipe books
- literature in additional languages to English.

## **Certificates and prizes**

Centres who complete the challenge in the database will receive a centre-wide Certificate of Achievement as well as one for each room recognising their involvement. This year, individual certificates will not be posted but an electronic version is available upon request.

Certificates of Achievement will be mailed to early childhood centres in September in time to be presented to children during the PRC Celebration Weeks.

Centres who complete the challenge will be in the running to share in book prize vouchers.

## **Celebration weeks**

Centres are encouraged to celebrate children's literacy activities and experiences with texts by holding presentation ceremonies during the PRC Celebration Weeks.

Centres are encouraged to invite their local Member of Parliament to participate in the presentation of certificates to children.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

For your centre to participate in the challenge please follow the steps below.

<p><b>Step 1: Select a PRC coordinator</b> The PRC coordinator is responsible for overseeing the centre's participation in the challenge, registering the centre and managing the data in the PRC database.</p>	<p>April – July 2026</p>
<p><b>Step 2: Register your centre</b> The PRC coordinator registers the centre to participate via the <a href="#">PRC database</a>. Centres who register by <b>Friday 24 July 2026</b> will receive a printed wall chart to keep track of their progress during the participation period.</p>	
<p><b>Step 3: Select your participation week</b> Centres should select one week to participate in the challenge between 17 – 28 August 2026.</p>	
<p><b>Step 4: Download the wall chart</b> Get ready to record book experiences. If you didn't receive a printed wall chart in the mail, you can download one from our <a href="#">website</a>. As is an early childhood record form for children reading at home to keep track of their progress.</p>	
<p><b>Step 5: Participation period</b> Centres tally the total number of experiences with texts or literacy activities over a one week period.</p>	<p>17 – 28 August 2026</p>
<p><b>Step 6: Submit achievements and order certificates</b> Coordinator to enter the total number of experiences with texts and literacy activities into the PRC database, and order Certificates of Achievement to complete the challenge.</p>	<p>11 September 2026</p>
<p><b>Step 7: Plan centre reading celebrations</b> Centres are encouraged to celebrate by holding presentation ceremonies during the PRC Celebration Weeks in November.</p>	<p>October 2026</p>
<p><b>Step 8: Celebrate reading achievements</b> Certificates of Achievement will be mailed to centres in October in time to be presented to children during PRC Celebration Weeks.</p>	<p>2 – 13 November 2026</p>

## TIPS FOR PARTICIPATION

### Encouraging children to engage with a range of texts

Some ideas for parents, carers, teachers, educators, aides, siblings, buddies and classmates to consider:

- make time to read aloud with children every day
- ensure reading time is fun and exciting
- engage children in play with words and sounds
- suggest books children may enjoy
- retell stories that you have enjoyed
- have children talk about the pictures – what do they think the story will be about, what do they see characters doing that may give clues about the story?
- use expression to convey the drama or humour in the story
- at key points in a story ask children what they think will happen next?
- for younger children, let them hold the book and turn the pages.

### Encouraging children to participate in the challenge

Some ideas to consider for the early childhood participation period include:

- create a book display of favourite books or authors
- read books from the same author or with the same characters
- organise a visit to your local library
- encourage parent/carer participation at library sessions and borrow books their children will enjoy
- organise a children book swap party – children bring a book and select a book from the swap table.

### Queensland public libraries

With over 300 public libraries in Queensland, locate a [library](#) near you and visit their website for online resources.

[First 5 Forever](#) is a universal family literacy program, connecting families with public libraries and community agencies, and aims to support stronger language and literacy environments for young children from 0–5 years and their families.

Centres are encouraged to contact their local library and discuss how to improve parent and carer links to age appropriate resources and programs.

### Early childhood record form

An [early childhood record form](#) is available on the website if children would like to record book experiences at home.

## HOW TO USE THE DATABASE

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## HOW TO REGISTER

Follow the steps below to register your centre to participate in this year's challenge.

### Step 1: Registration

1. Open the PRC database – <http://prc.median.com.au>
2. Click the 'Register' button on the PRC database home page.



#### 2026 Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is an annual statewide initiative for state and non-state schools and home-educated students up to Year 9, and children enrolled in an early childhood centre or program.

The challenge is not a competition but aims to improve literacy and encourage children to read widely for pleasure and learning. Children and students can participate in the challenge within their school, early childhood centre or as individual readers (home-educated students or students whose schools are not participating in the program).

For Prep — Year 9 students to successfully complete the challenge they must read or experience an allocated number of books based upon their year level during the reading period.

Early childhood centres can participate in an abridged version of the challenge by tallying the total number of book experiences or literary activities over a one week period.

Children and students who complete the challenge will have their efforts recognised through the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement.

For further information visit the Premier's Reading Challenge [website](#).

#### Key dates

27 April 2026	PRC launch date
11 May 2026	Reading period commences for Prep to Year 9 students
17 - 28 August 2026	Early childhood participation period
22 - 28 August 2026	CBCA Children's Book Week
28 August 2026	Reading period finishes for Prep to Year 9 students. Student reader record forms submitted to schools
11 September 2026	All reading data must be finalised in the database and Certificate of Participation available for download
October 2026	Certificates of Achievement issued
2 - 13 November 2026	Premier's Reading Challenge celebration weeks

Register

Log in

3. Click on the 'Early childhood centre' button. A centre registration is for early childhood centres whose participation is managed by a PRC coordinator on behalf of a centre.

Children and students can participate in the challenge within their school, early childhood centre or as an individual reader (home-educated students or students whose schools are not participating in the program). Please select the correct registration type below:

School

A school registration is for Prep – Year 9 students whose participation is managed by a Premier's Reading Challenge school coordinator on behalf of a school.

The [school information kit](#) provides instructions on how to register for the challenge.

Individual reader

An individual reader is a Prep – Year 9 student who is home-educated or whose school is not participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Before registering as an individual reader, students attending a Queensland school should ensure that their school is not participating in the challenge.

The [individual reader information kit](#) provides instructions for parents/guardians on how to register for the challenge.

Early childhood centre

A childhood centre registration is for early childhood centres whose participation is managed by a Premier's Reading Challenge coordinator on behalf of a centre.

The [early childhood centre information kit](#) provides instructions on how to register for the challenge.

- Enter your contact and centre details and click the 'Register' button.  
As there is only one registration per centre, please either contact your centre administration or the PRC Program Manager if your centre is already registered.

Early childhood centre registration

Coordinator first name

Coordinator surname

Email address

Phone

Password  Note: Password must be at least six characters including one uppercase letter, one lower case letter and alphanumeric characters.

Confirm password

Early childhood centre  ▼

Postal address 1

Postal address 2

Suburb

Postcode

• If your early childhood centre's name does not appear, please confirm that your centre has not already been registered for the challenge. Once a centre is registered it no longer appears in the drop down menu.

• If your centre still does not appear, please contact the [Program Manager](#).

**Register**

- You will receive an email to confirm your registration from 'Premier's Reading Challenge <PRC@median.com.au>'. The email will include your login details for the PRC database. Please keep these details as you will need to log back into the database throughout the challenge.
- After you click the 'Register' button you will be taken to your 'Centre' overview screen.
- If you coordinate the PRC in multiple centres you can manage all your records under one login. To add an additional centre, select the centre from the drop down menu and select 'Add centre' button in the bottom left hand corner.

Centre overview

Show all on one page

Centre name (prints on certificate)	Total rooms	Room list	Completed date	Cancel challenge	Cancelled date	
1 2 3 4 Kids	0	Room list	No date available	Cancel	No date available	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

121 Childcare - Rainforest Centre ▼

**+ Add centre**

- To make edits to your centre name, for example if you need to shorten the name of your centre for the purposes of the certificate, select 'Edit' in the right hand side column of the 'Centre overview' screen. Once the changes are made select 'save'.

Centre overview

Show all on one page

Centre name (prints on certificate)	Total rooms	Room list	Completed date	Cancel challenge	Cancelled date	
1 2 3 4 Kids	0	<a href="#">Room list</a>	No date available	✗ Cancel	No date available	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

121 Childcare - Rainforest Centre

## Step 2: Entering a room

- To add a room to your centre, click on the 'Room list' link in the third column of the centre overview.

Centre overview

Show all on one page

Centre name (prints on certificate)	Total rooms	Room list	Completed date	Cancel challenge	Cancelled date	
1 2 3 4 Kids	0	<a href="#">Room list</a>	No date available	✗ Cancel	No date available	<input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

121 Childcare - Rainforest Centre

- To enter the name of a room click on the 'Add room' button on the top right hand corner of the page.

1 2 3 4 Kids - Room List

Show all on one page

Room name	Books experienced	No. of children	Child list
No record found			

- Enter the room name and how many children plan to participate then press 'Save'. You can register your whole centre as one room if you do not wish to create multiple rooms. Add 0 in the books experienced then update once the participation period has concluded.

Early Childhood Centre - Room List

Show all on one page

Room name	Books experienced	No. of children	No. of children Completed	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>		<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>

### Step 3: Completing the challenge

At the conclusion of the participation period, the total number of book experiences and literacy activities experienced by children at your centre over a one week (7 day) period needs to be totalled and entered into the PRC database by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

*This year certificates of achievement will be presented to each room who participated as well a centre-wide certificate in recognition of their involvement – not individual certificates per child.*

1. To enter the number of books read, login and click the 'Edit' button next to each room name on the participant details screen and update. Add number of children who participated and press 'Save'.

Early Childhood Centre - Room List

Show all on one page + Add room Centre overview

Room name	Books experienced	No. of children	No. of children Completed	
<input type="text" value="Room1"/>	<input type="text" value="14"/>	<input type="text" value="15"/>	<input type="text" value="15"/>	<span>Save</span> <span>Cancel</span>

2. Once this is done, you can complete the challenge by clicking on the 'Complete challenge' button. This is a multi-step process.

Early Childhood Centre - Room List

Show all on one page + Add room Centre overview

Room name	Books experienced	No. of children	No. of children Completed	
Room1	14	15	15	<span>Edit</span> <span>Delete</span>

Complete challenge

3. Preview certificate and confirm postal address

Preview certificates to ensure there are no errors. Check that your postal details are correct (this is where the certificates will be sent) and click on 'Confirm details and submit'. If you wish to change the postal address, go to the 'My Account' page which can be found in the drop down box under 'Hello, *name*' button in the top right hand corner of the screen.

4. Confirmation email

If the completion process has been finalised, you will receive a confirmation email.

**Important:** make sure to look out for your confirmation email. If you do not receive one, check your junk mail. If you're still unable to locate it, it is likely you have not completed the process. Log back in and follow the 'complete challenge' prompts.

## How to 'undo completion'

Once you have completed your record in the database and received a confirmation email, we will print certificates as per the database. If you need to add or update details, you can do so as long as it is before the database deadline. Login and click on the blue 'undo completion' button. It will appear where the 'complete challenge' button was. You can then update what you need to.

*Make sure to go through the completion process again when you're finished. If your account is not complete by the due date, certificates will not be sent.*

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1 2 3 4 Kids - Room List

Show all on one page [+ Add room](#) [Centre overview](#)

Room name	Books experienced	No. of children	Child list	
Room 1	20	5	★ Children	<a href="#">✎ Edit</a> <a href="#">🗑 Delete</a>

[♥ Undo completion](#)

## How to change your details or password

If you need to change your details or password click the 'Hello, *name*' button in the top right hand corner of the screen, and select 'My Account'.

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Home Contact PRC Website Book List Admin School overview Centre overview Individual Overview

Hello, PRC Admin! -  
My Account  
Log off

Change your password by selecting 'Change' at the bottom of the page.

Or update your details and select 'Save'.

## WHERE TO FIND BOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

With more than 300 libraries in Queensland, [locate a library near you](#) and visit their website for opening hours and available resources.

- [Australian Publishers Association](#)
- [BorrowBox](#)
- [Brisbane City Council Library Services](#)
- [Children and Young People with Disability Australia](#)
- [Dandiiri Library](#)
- [learning@home](#)
- [First 5 Forever](#)
- [National Library of Australia](#)
- [Project Gutenberg](#)
- [Queensland State Schools eBooks Digital Library \(for state schools only, log in required\)](#)
- [Reading and Writing Disorders](#)
- [State Library of Queensland](#)
- [Story Box Library](#)
- [The Children's Book Council of Australia](#)
- [Tumble Book Library](#)
- [Vision Australia Library – become a member for free.](#)

For an alternate format library provided by the department's Queensland Statewide Vision Impairment Services, email [3140\\_AFL@eq.edu.au](mailto:3140_AFL@eq.edu.au) for more information.

### PRC book list portal

New books are added every year to the [PRC book lists](#). Search by themes or authors to help select books your students/children will love. The book lists offer suggestions only, participants can read any materials that are available or of interest to them.

### Book suggestions from other state PRC programs

New South Wales: <https://online.education.nsw.gov.au/prc/booklist/home.html>

South Australia: <https://premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au/book-list/>

Victoria: <https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/searchbooklist>

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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