



Parent / Care Giver Consent Form

(this is a two page form)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Story Dogs is a fun and unique reading support program that improves children's reading and communication skills by children reading to an accredited companion dog and its handler.

The Story Dog program is primarily designed for students who have reading challenges, however students may be chosen by the Classroom Teacher to participate in the program as a reward or as an alternative reading activity. Your child may or may not be chosen for the program however completion of this form will allow them to participate if chosen.

Students will spend approximately 20 minutes with the Story Dog Team once per week reading books which are appropriate to their reading level. During the session, the dog will be on its lead at all times and the volunteer will be with the dog and student at all times.

Although the dog is immaculately groomed, fully wormed with flea protection, children with dog allergies are recommended not to be involved with the program.

Additional Information about the Story Dogs program

- The program has been running in Australia since 2009
 - Students are chosen by the classroom teacher and not by Story Dogs
 - The Dog Team (Volunteer and dog) have been accredited by Story Dogs •
- The program is free to all students.

Child Protection Information

Our Commitment

Story Dogs is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. Everyone involved with Story Dogs is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse.

Context

Story Dogs works closely with schools, we are only on schools grounds by the permission of the school Principal. As such the children are in the care of the school at all times. Story Dogs acknowledges that it has a strong duty of care to the children when they are engaging with Story Dogs staff or volunteers. Story Dogs volunteers see children on a one on one basis each week for approximately 20 minutes per child. It is expected a bond or relationship will form between the child, volunteer and dog. However, this relationship should always be positive and fun and never become personal.



Email: info@storydogs.org.au



Address: PO Box 1076 Bonalbo NSW 2469



www.storydogs.org.au



ABN: 32 603 311 388





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Risk Minimisation

- All Story Dogs volunteers have a current Working With Children/Vulnerable People Check
- 'Pats not Hugs' is what we expect from students and staff, thus reducing the stress on our dogs. A happy dog is a safe dog.
- The location of the reading sessions within the school are chosen so as to ensure volunteers are not alone and out of sight with your child. Reading sessions are to be in sight of school staff at all times.
- Story Dogs volunteers have only the child's first name and a small amount of information on why the child was chosen so they can best help your child to learn to read. No other information on the children we see is provided. All permission forms and other information are held by the school.



We welcome feedback and contact with parents and caregivers to continue to improve our program. Please contact us on info@storydogs.org.au or Janine on 0411 536 355 or visit www.storydogs.org.au

Continuous Improvement

You or your child may be asked to participate in an anonymous, standardised survey or interview to determine the effectiveness of the Story Dogs program and to assist us with improving our service delivery.

We look forward to supporting your child to make reading fun. Woof Woof!

Story Dogs Permission Slip

I (print your name)..... do give permission for my child

(their name).....of class.....

to be part of the Story Dog program.

I give permission for photographs to be taken of my child participating in the program and I am aware that these photographs may be used for promotional purposes including appearing on the internet, on the Story Dogs web site (www.storydogs.org.au) and social media pages.

☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ My child **does** have known allergies that that will be triggered by contact with a dog.

☐ My child has had a poor or frightening experience with a dog.

Signature of Parent/Carer.....

School to keep this slip on file



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