



## **Together We Grow a multicultural family literacy pilot program - Toowoomba City Library**

### **Program rationale and session outline for staff.**

*Focusing on fostering social connections with the library community and providing opportunities to develop English literacy skills.*

#### **Together We Grow program aims to:**

Welcome new refugee and migrants to the library;

Be fun and interactive;

Encourage and provide additional opportunities to practise daily conversations in English;

Nurture parent /child relationship;

Establish a relationship between the group and library staff creating positive access points to the library service;

Connect support agencies and the library to share information and support each other and the Toowoomba CALD refugee and migrant community.

The program is designed for youth 10 years and over, and their mothers.

#### **Program outcome**

Create a *Culture Zine*. Participants take images using SLQ digital cameras inside the library (collections, signs, spaces) and outside the library (cafes, newsagents etc). Images are placed in a word template document to create a *Culture Zine* depicting Australian themes in daily life such as food, sport and animals. The *Culture Zine* can be printed and text added by hand or created digitally to build an English word bank. Commercial print magazines can be used for images or text if desired, hand drawn designs can be scanned in to the template. Consider feasibility for the *Culture Zine* to be made available digitally.

#### **Program length and considerations**

Each weekly session runs from 9.30-11am for four weeks.

Staff time allocated for program is 3 hours for preparation and pack away.

Weekly sessions follows the same format, with only the theme for discussion and images changing:

- Welcome
- Icebreaker game
- Review previous week's activity
- Introduce current week's activity
- Implement activity
- Share experiences of activity
- Farewell

## Considerations

- Cultural awareness: greetings, personal space, eye contact.
- Interpreter or Cultural Support worker required.

## Preparations

- Display Languages other than English (LOTE) resources available to borrow.
- Access to PC or iPad to access the *MyLanguage* website.
- Have camera or video equipment ready/set up.
- Ensure library staff wears name badges and are introduced to participants.
- Name badges (could be sticky labels) for participants.
- Ensure weekly attendance form is checked and signed.

## Resources required

- Cameras with SD cards, cord to download, charger.
- Laptop to download images.
- iPad to access the *MyLanguage* Website.
- Magazines, paper, glue, scissors, pens to create artwork in *Culture Zine*.
- Access to colour printing.
- USB for image storage.

## Session outline – 90 minutes

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**Welcome and introductions (allow 5 mins).** Participants create a name badge in English/Dari.

**Icebreaker games (allow 10 mins).** Soft ball toss, string game, xbox playtime, hokey pokey. Session three icebreaker ask each participant to take images of each other for each *Culture Zine*.

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**Review of previous week's session (allow 5 minutes).**

**Introduce session theme (allow 30 - 40 minutes).** Themes include animals, places, sport, garden and food. Create an culture zine with progressive word building text (text is added as *zine* is created).

- Theme discussion ideas:
  - FOOD. Fruit and vegetables, breads and grains, meat, dairy, processed. What do you like? How to prepare and cook? Recipes? Cooking section in library, MyLanguage site in Dari for recipes, shopping for food, bush tucker, invite an elder to talk about bush tucker? Markets?
  - ANIMALS. Mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, amphibians. Australian animals/animals found in Afghanistan? Animals in the emblem and each state. Domestic/farming. Animals in the library? Visit the duck pond outside the library? Puppets? Staff to bring in and share images of animals?
  - SPORT. Australian sport. Afghani sport? Many types of sport. Discover sport in library. Famous sporting people?
  - GARDEN. Gardens in Toowoomba. Types of gardens – fragrant floral gardens, herbs, large and small farming, vegetables, ornamental, shrubs and trees, state emblems, natives, bush herbs, invite guest or library staff to bring in some home grown produce to share? Invite library staff to bring in images of their gardens? Local markets? Where are gardening/plant books/items in library? What's on the MyLanguage website?
  - PLACES. Around Australia. Read Possum Magic? Use as point of interest and link between place and food. Places in the library, travel books? Magazines?

**Photographs for the *Culture Zine*.** Using library cameras, participants are invited to take images depicting the weekly theme in and around the library. For example the theme Food, locate cooking books or growing your own food in the library, visit the

lunchroom fridge, visit cafe near library, or invite guest to the session and hold a simple cooking session , experimenting with different Australian foods.

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**Re-group and return cameras (allow 15 minutes).**

Participants are assigned a numbered camera for data download and storage on PC of images. Staff to download images after session finishes and store on USB's, ready to print for following week's session.

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Share experiences or particular images around the group, split into two groups, each with interpreter if possible (**allow 10 minutes**). Final session, show *Culture Zines'* onscreen or in print and display for all to view.

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Farewells – finish with a closing game (**allow 5 minutes**).



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