## Book Box Libraries are like 'Little Libraries'.

They can be placed in community spaces - indoors or outdoors at:

- Shopping centres
- Businesses
- Schools
- Playgrounds
- Early education and childcare centres
- Community and health organisations



Photo courtesy of Go Goldfields, Central Goldfields Shire.



Photo courtesy of Go Goldfields, Central Goldfields Shire.

### Contact us

To register your interest, contact:

Sandra Harvey

Language and Literacy Project Worker.

Email: shharvey@bendigohealth.org.au

Phone: 03 54547188

# Book Box Library

Increasing free access to books for children in the Bendigo community.



Photo courtesy of Jenny's Early Learning Centre

(Bendigo Health- hospital site)





This initiative is part of the Communities for Children Initiative funded by the Department of Social Services.

### How does it work?

#### **COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

**Step 1.** Build a Book Box Library suitable to shelve and store books- (weatherproof, if it will be outdoors!).

**Step 2.** Get children involved to paint and decorate the Book Box Library.

**Step 3.** Fill the box with new or second-hand children's books- donated by the community.

**Step 4.** Place the Book Box Library in an approved community or business space.

**Step 5.** Volunteer to regularly check that the Book Box Library is stocked with books.

## What is a Book Box Library?

#### A COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVE

A Book Box Library is a free children's book exchange.

The aim is to promote literacy and the love of reading for children in the community.

Children can read and take home a book, swap and return books.

All for free.

'Read or borrow a book.'

Donate or swap a book.'



Photo courtesy of Salvation Army
(Mundy St site)

## Why does it matter?

#### **EARLY INTERVENTION**

The State of Bendigo's Children report (2013) shows that Bendigo children rate lower with literacy and language skills than the Victorian average.

Low literacy and language levels in children aged 0-5 years can impact negatively on future educational attainment, social, health and employment outcomes.

Early achievement of literacy and language skills can be improved with access to books and rich, nurturing language opportunities for babies and toddlers prior to starting school.