

# Virtual Storytelling & Hints for Parents Sharing Books With Families :

by

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**2012 National Reading Ambassador**

<http://kingstonlibraries.ning.com/page/virtual-storytime-1>

Fabulous Kingston ( Vic) librarians initiating the Virtual Storytelling online for parents, modelling reading of picture books.



Librarians ARE great storytelling innovators! And they're moving online.

Recently I was invited to read some of my picture books, to share online with parents in the Kingston (Vic) Library region as a National Year of Reading initiative. The aim

was to role- model enjoyable reading. This was to encourage families sharing books at home.

### Hazel's Hints for Sharing Picture Books

1. Just have fun, even if you're not the best reader in the world.
2. Encourage 'Beaut Blokes' in families to do funny voices for the dialogue.
3. Only read books YOU like.
4. Take your time over the illustrations and look for story clues in the pictures AND words.
5. Ask 'open' questions which involve the child , like 'What do you think the bee is doing here?' Accept all answers.
6. There's a rhythm to a well written story. Often there are repetitions like ' Drip Drip Drip' which the child remembers easily.
7. Change the pace and volume.
8. Suggest activities others have tried such as making a tool kit for the platypus plumber which includes ways of 'fixing' grumpy people as well as pipes.
9. Finger puppets or activities for kids [http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/just\\_for\\_kids.html](http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/just_for_kids.html)
10. Mention the author and illustrator as well as the title to the listeners.

Next time, your family could write your own stories with photos or illustrations. And maybe in more than one language.

What have I learnt from the process?

It took us about two hours to film, straight, with only one re-take due to shiny light on the pages.

Kingston is a popular name. It is in Victoria, ACT, Tasmania and Jamaica. This innovation is from the Victorian Kingston Library.

### Author

Hazel Edwards ([www.hazeledwards.com](http://www.hazeledwards.com)) is a 2012 National Reading Ambassador whose best known picture book is 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake' and the short film is currently touring with Little Big Shots Film Festival.

Links to her reading picture books 'Flight of the Bumblebee' and 'Plato the Platypus Plumber' and 'There's a Hippopotamus on our Roof Eating Cake' are here: [http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/theres\\_a\\_hippopotamus\\_on\\_our\\_roof\\_eating\\_cake.html](http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/theres_a_hippopotamus_on_our_roof_eating_cake.html)

[http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/plato\\_the\\_platypus\\_plumber.html](http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/plato_the_platypus_plumber.html)

[http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/flight\\_of\\_the\\_bumblebee.html](http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/flight_of_the_bumblebee.html)

Hazel's online bookstore also has e-books which families can share onscreen.

'Project Spy Kids' is a mystery literacy series featuring Art who is not a great reader, but a cool sleuth who solves mysteries.

<http://www.hazeledwards.com/shop/category/literacy-mysteries>

The Frequent Flyer Twins are 10 year old Asian-Australian twins who solve mysteries at various airports.

<http://www.hazeledwards.com/shop/item/artnapping-frequent-flyer-twins-series-e-book>

<http://www.hazeledwards.com/shop/item/writing-a-non-boring-family-history>

includes a chapter on writing for children in your family.