

# Christchurch City Libraries

Ngā Kete Wānanga-o-Ōtautahi

READING TO DOGS



A 'fur-tastic' programme  
for growing readers!



Christchurch  
City Council



# Reading to Dogs

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## A 'fur-tastic' programme for growing readers!

Christchurch City Libraries 'Reading to Dogs' programme is designed to provide a relaxed, non-threatening atmosphere which encourages children to practice their reading skills and develop a love of reading.

Reading aloud is critical when children are learning. However, many children have difficulties reading and become self-conscious when reading in front of their peers. Libraries and schools around the world have found that by sitting down and reading to a friendly dog, a child's fear of being judged or laughed at 'over mistakes' disappears. Over time, the child's reading ability and self-confidence improves and they begin to associate reading with a pleasant experience.



## How does it work?

The programme uses dogs who are the beloved pets of the Christchurch City Council Animal Control team. These furry friends have all been trained and tested for health, safety and temperament. Our dogs:

- Can increase a child's relaxation while reading
- Listen attentively
- Do not laugh, judge or criticise
- Allow children to proceed at their own pace
- Can be less intimidating than a child's peers

Library staff and a dog handler will be present at all times to help facilitate the sessions.

So snuggle up, have fun and pet your buddy.  
Reading with a new friend can tucker a dog out, so don't worry if they fall asleep part way through.

## Don't miss out on this fun programme!

**Upper Riccarton, 71 Main South Road**

Tuesdays 3.30pm–4.30pm

**South Library, 66 Colombo Street**

Wednesdays 3.30pm–4.30pm

**Shirley Library, 36 Marshland Road**

Thursdays 3.30pm–4.30pm

*Each session is 15 minutes long.*

Bookings are essential, please call (03) 941 7923

Visit: [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)



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## Christchurch City Libraries

PO Box 73405, Christchurch 8140

Telephone: 941 7923. Email: [library@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:library@ccc.govt.nz)

Or visit our website: [christchurchcitylibraries.com](http://christchurchcitylibraries.com)

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