



# PARENT READING WORKSHOP



**17th March 2023**



# What is the purpose of this workshop?

- Develop an understanding of what reading looks like for your child
- Understand the importance of reading for children
- Explore different methods for reading at home
- Learn the difference between reading skill and reading for pleasure
- Ask questions about reading for your child






# Activity

*What have you read so far today?*


- Write down on post-it notes everything you have read so far this morning.
- Think about all the different forms of media that we may have encountered, from waking up this morning to arriving at Fairfield's today.



Social media posts



Sign-in screen  
in the office



Body  
language/  
emotions



Newspaper  
story



Weather report



Traffic  
light




Use-by date on the  
milk bottle



Alarm clock



This power-point



Magazine



Shopping  
list





# Why is reading important for children?

- Reading sparks the imagination, allowing children to enter a world they haven't experienced before
- Reading helps promote wellbeing and health, builds social connections and strengthens relationships
- Reading may lead to role play, which in turns helps with problem solving, empathy and morality skills

# Why is reading important for children?

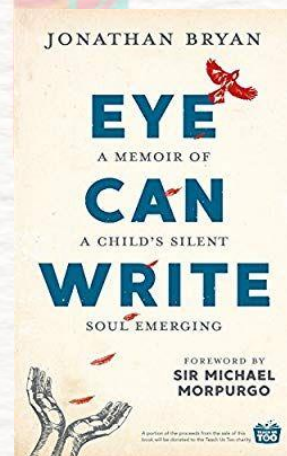
- Reading develops skills for literacy learning, such as self-awareness, rhyme, rhythm, pattern, auditory perception skills, and working memory
- Reading helps develop communication skills; listening, understanding, and then onto writing
- Books introduce colours, shapes and patterns, letters and numbers
- Reading can help teach emotion through facial expressions, tone of voice and body language



Immersing myself in a story is  
the most enjoyable, wonderful  
escapism; books have nourished  
my mind and prevented mental  
decay during my years of silence.  
Trapped in cerebral palsy I run  
within the pages; skipping,  
laughing, exploring.

Submerging myself into the  
adventure of new tales, I have  
inhabited the scenes of authors'  
pictures and woven them with my  
imagination.

Words have been my portal into  
another world.



# What does reading look like for our children?

Listening to  
sounds

Anticipation

Mimicking

Awareness &  
concentration

Repetitive  
vocalisations

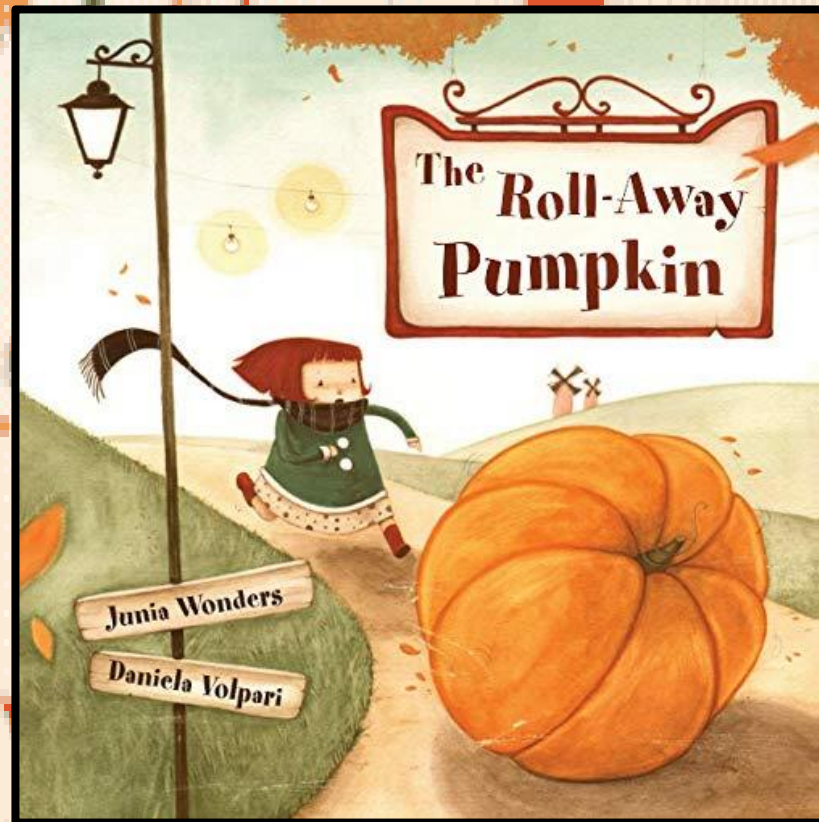
Tactile  
engagement

Consistent  
reactions



# What does reading look like for our children?

- Research shows children can experience and enjoy language they might not directly understand.
- Interactive story telling is more than just reading, it is the 'music of words' and can be felt.
- Emotion can be felt by a child, through voice, presence and engagement







What did you notice about the  
way the story was told?

Rhythm


Sensory  
stimuli

Rhyme

Movements  
/ actions

Instruments/  
sounds

Repetitive

The background features a collection of stylized, colorful books in various orientations (some open, some closed) and small, scattered dots in shades of teal, pink, and yellow. The books have simple, flat designs with some showing pages. The dots are small circles of varying sizes.

How do we make reading  
engaging without all of  
these resources you have  
at school?

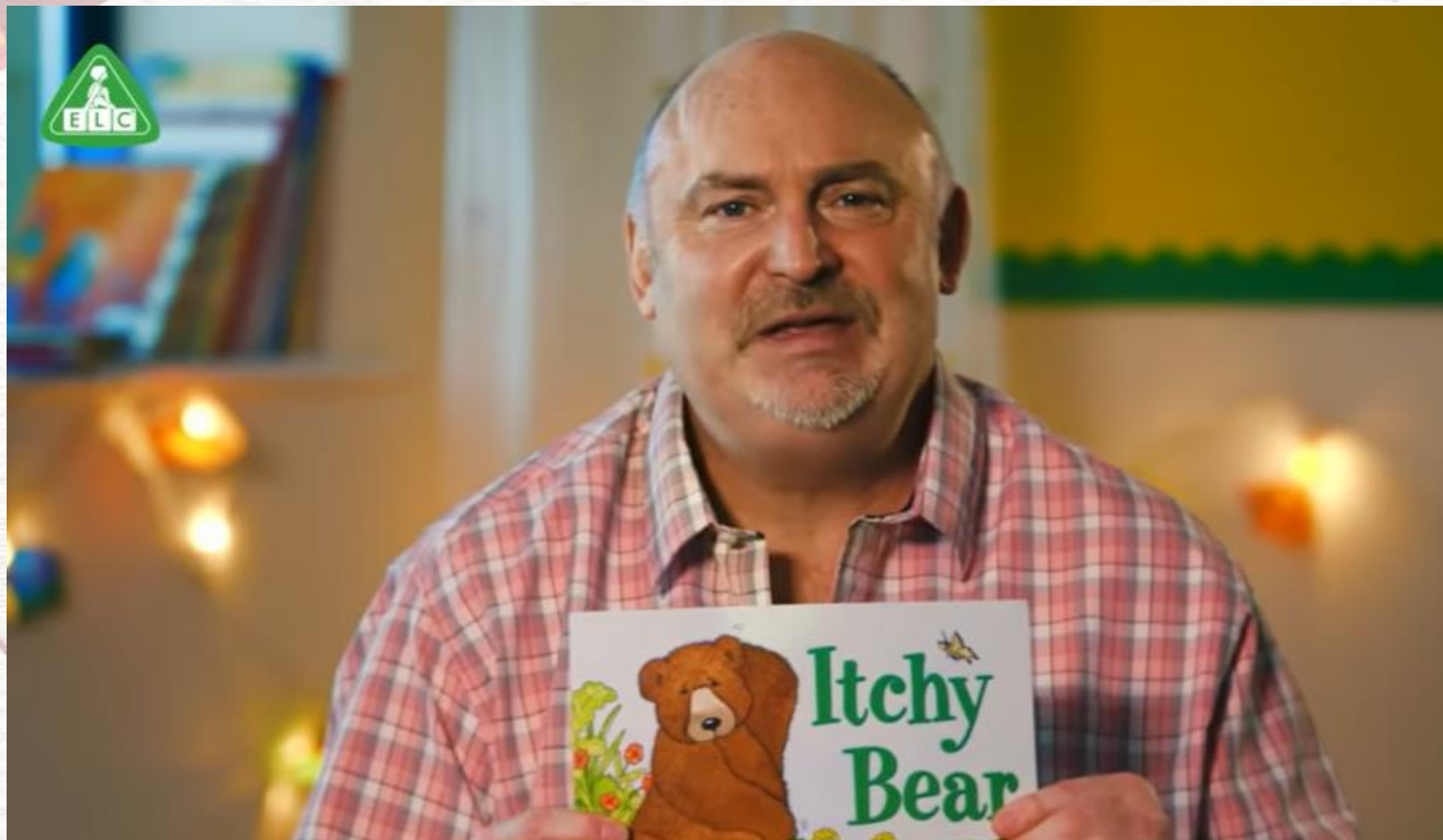


The background is a light cream color with a subtle pattern of small, colorful dots in shades of teal, pink, and yellow. Scattered throughout the background are several stylized, colorful books in various orientations, including red, teal, and yellow covers.

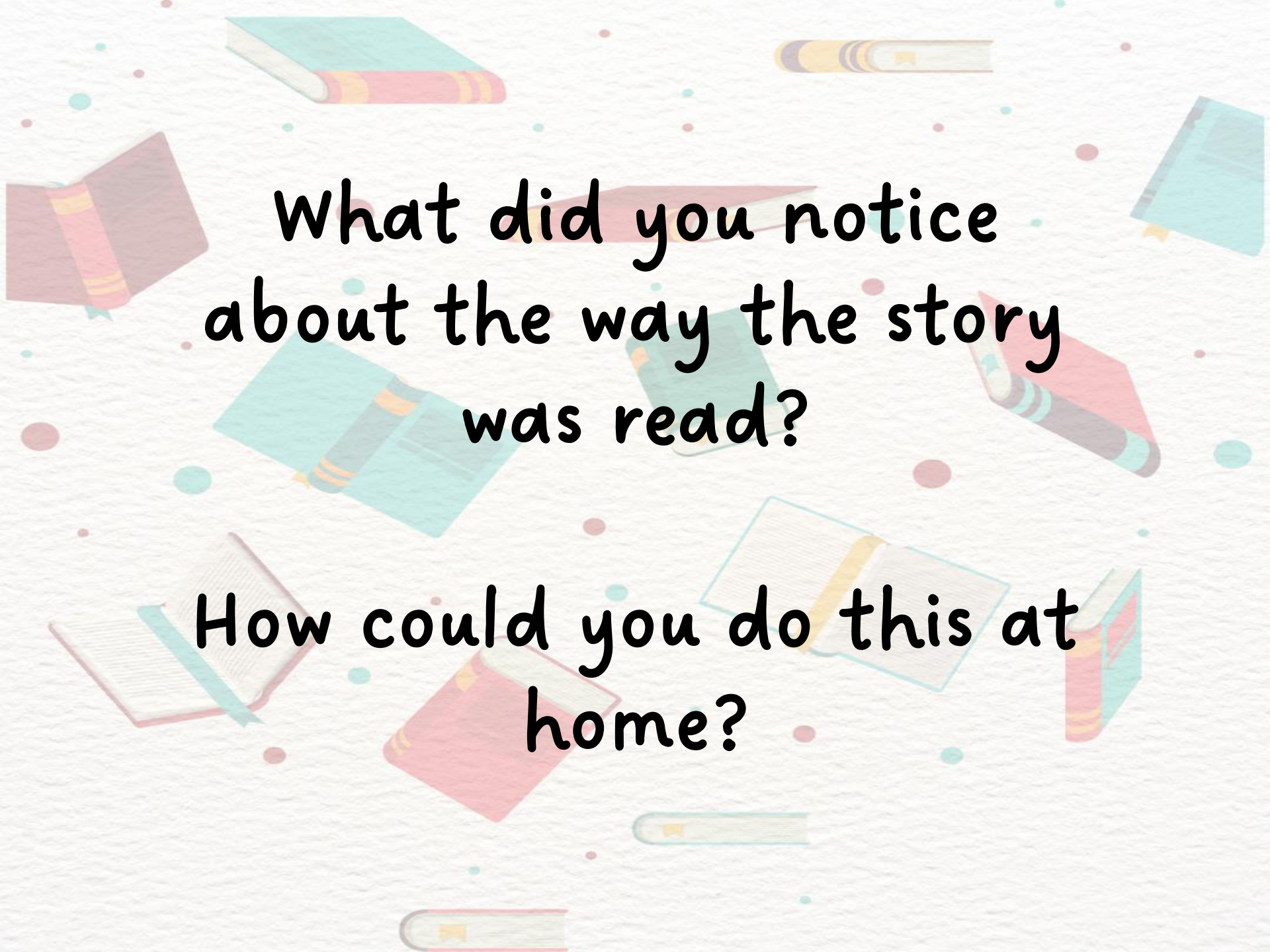
# Neil Griffiths - Itchy Bear

- Look at how Neil Griffiths (storyteller) uses body language, facial expressions, tone of voice, and gesture to tell his story
  - Notice how few resources he actually uses
- Watch how engaged all the children (and the adults) are in his storytelling

Reading to Children - Tips &  
Techniques - "Itchy Bear" Neil  
Griffiths - ELC - YouTube





The background of the slide is a light cream color with a subtle paper-like texture. It is decorated with several stylized, colorful books in shades of teal, pink, and yellow, some shown from the front cover and others from the spine. Scattered throughout the scene are small, semi-transparent circles in teal, pink, and yellow, resembling confetti or dust particles.

What did you notice  
about the way the story  
was read?

How could you do this at  
home?

# What can I use to tell a sensory story at home?

ANYTHING!

Things that make...

- Loud sounds  
*Rice, pasta, metal bowls & spoons*
- Funny sounds  
*Bubble-wrap, balloons*
- Bright colours  
*Torches, fairy lights*
- Different textures  
*Sandpaper, water spray, corn-flour mixture*




# Reading memories

The background is a light cream color with a subtle paper texture. It is decorated with several stylized books in various orientations and colors, including teal, pink, and brown. Small, scattered dots in teal, pink, and brown are also present throughout the background.

Close your eyes  
and think back  
to a reading  
memory





The background features a light cream-colored surface with several stylized books in shades of pink, teal, and yellow scattered across it. Small, colorful dots in teal, pink, and yellow are also scattered throughout the scene.

Why was  
your reading  
memory so  
memorable?

Was it about  
the person  
who you  
shared the  
story with?

What else  
made that  
moment an  
important  
memory for  
you?

Is your  
memory  
from  
childhood or  
adulthood?

How do you  
feel now?





# Phonics

- Phonics is a method for teaching people how to read and write an alphabetic language.
- In school, we use Read, Write, Inc to teach phonics.
- We have an adapted version of RWI for our sensory learners, focussing on areas such as environmental sounds, body percussion and instrumental sounds.

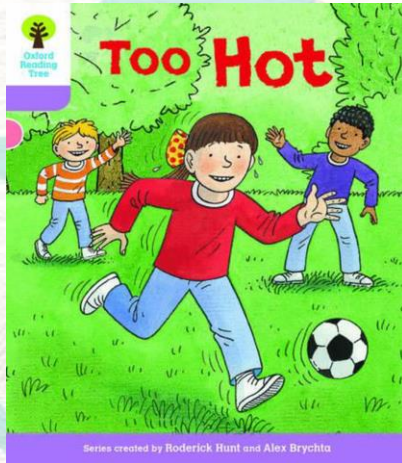
# Reading for Pleasure

- Reading for pleasure is about encouraging the love and enjoyment of reading. It is also about develop children's value of books and what they can provide them.
- **Set aside a special time** – just a few minutes a day is enough to create a reading habit.
- **Get caught reading yourself** – show that reading for pleasure is not just for children.
- **Read to each other** – if your child really doesn't want to read on their own, then read together. You read a page, then they read a page. Or one of you could read any dialogue. Be brave and put on different voices.
- **Value the books they choose to read** – all reading is valuable for a child's development. Some of us prefer non-fiction; some of us prefer comics.

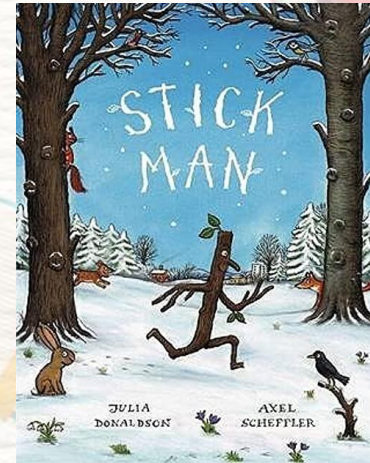


# Phonics vs Reading for Pleasure

*In the future, your child might come home with different types of books.*

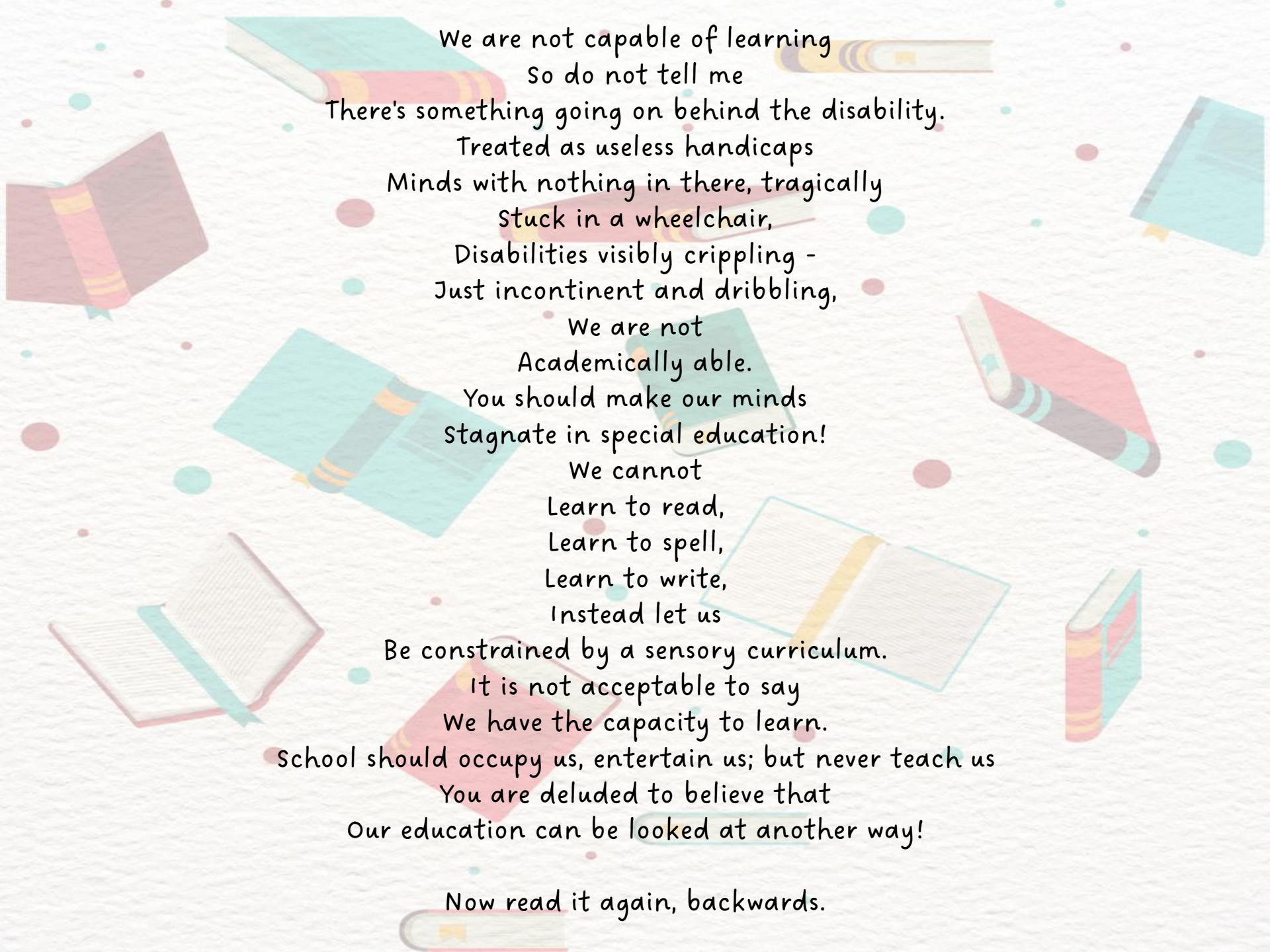


These books are for your child to read themselves, learning the skill of reading using their phonic knowledge.



These books are for you to share with your child, and develop a love of reading, taking turns, looking at the pictures and listening to.



The background is a light cream color with a subtle paper texture. It is decorated with several stylized, colorful books in shades of teal, pink, and yellow, some open and some closed, scattered around the text. Small, semi-transparent circles in matching colors are also scattered throughout the background.

We are not capable of learning  
So do not tell me  
There's something going on behind the disability.

Treated as useless handicaps  
Minds with nothing in there, tragically  
Stuck in a wheelchair,

Disabilities visibly crippling -  
Just incontinent and dribbling,

We are not  
Academically able.

You should make our minds  
Stagnate in special education!

We cannot  
Learn to read,  
Learn to spell,  
Learn to write,  
Instead let us

Be constrained by a sensory curriculum.

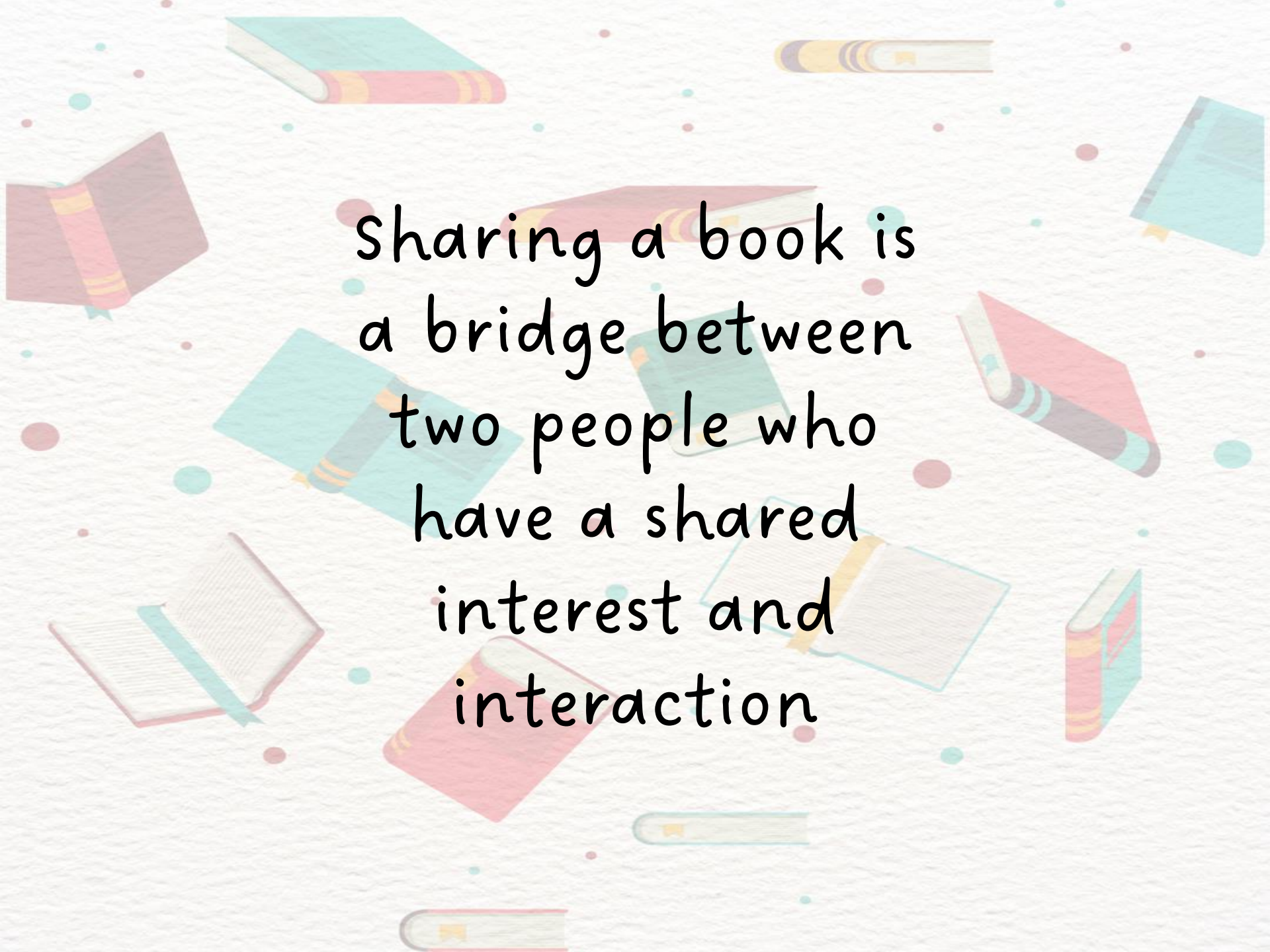
It is not acceptable to say  
We have the capacity to learn.

School should occupy us, entertain us; but never teach us

You are deluded to believe that  
Our education can be looked at another way!

Now read it again, backwards.





Sharing a book is  
a bridge between  
two people who  
have a shared  
interest and  
interaction