



Frequently asked questions

What is The Pyjama Foundation Love of Learning Program®?

The Pyjama Foundation Love of Learning Program® is a literacy-based mentoring program for children in care. Volunteers from the community – Pyjama Angels – are recruited, screened, trained and supported to help the children improve their literacy skills.

How do I become a Pyjama Angel?

1. Download and complete the forms on the website: *Pyjama Angel Application Form*, *Confidentiality Form*, and either *Application for Blue Card* or *Confirmation of Blue Card Status* (Qld).
2. Contact your local co-ordinator to arrange an interview. Bring with you:
 - The forms
 - Two pieces of identification (one x photo ID e.g. driver's license)
 - Contact details for two referees.
3. Attend a training session.
4. When you are matched with a child, contact their Carer to arrange a mutually convenient time to visit.
5. Collect some resources to take along on your first visit.

Who should I nominate as my referees?

Referees should be people you have known for three years if possible. It is preferred that one referee should be a professional and that

at least one should have seen you interact with children. If you have concerns or queries please chat to your local Co-ordinator.

What are Pyjama Angels like?

Pyjama Angels cover a truly diverse range of ages and qualifications. Interestingly, this seems to vary by region. Our Pyjama Angels may be business and academic professionals, students, retirees or more, but all of them have a love of reading.

What happens after my training session?

If you are applying for your Blue Card, you may need to wait 6 to 12 weeks for it to arrive. The Card will be sent to you and we will receive a letter confirming you have received your Card and are eligible to start reading to children.

When your Blue Card has arrived we will advise the name of the child you will be reading to and give you the details to contact the foster child's family. We will have contacted the foster carer to confirm they would like a Pyjama Angel. You will need to introduce yourself and organise to visit the child in the near future.

We cover all details about interaction with foster carers and foster children at our training session.

Please note that occasionally there is a longer wait as sometimes we get more volunteers than children or vice versa in an area.

What is the minimum duration required to be a Pyjama Angel?

It is important to commit to at least 12 weeks of reading to a foster child. This is primarily because these children experience many people coming into their lives only momentarily. In order to prevent causing more harm than good, we need to be sensitive to these children's needs and provide them with laughter, trust and friendship while they learn. Data analysis shows that the average length of time for a person to volunteer is 11 months, and some matches last for years.

How old do I have to be?

Applications for volunteer Pyjama Angels are accepted from individuals over 18 years of age, as this is the minimum age to apply for a Blue Card.

Can I take my own children along to read?

No. The premise of the program is the one-on-one interaction between the Pyjama Angel and the child. Foster children usually live in very busy households and it is important for them to receive one-on-one attention from you.

Where do I have to read?

When you attend your training session, we ask you what suburbs you are able to travel to. We try our best to pair you up with a foster child in the desirable area. Reading takes place in the foster home as the foster carer is still responsible for the child during this time.

At what times do I have to read?

This is up to you and the foster carer to negotiate. Feedback from current Pyjama Angels show a preset day and time for reading each week works best. Usually our Pyjama Angels read after work on a weekday or during the weekend. It is also a good idea to call the foster carer before each visit to confirm.

Do I have to read at the same time each week?

It is preferable that you read at the same time each week. But if your schedule changes often, you should discuss this with the foster carer. Usually there are no problems with reaching a compromise on days and times for reading. However, if you feel there is no way of reaching a fair compromise, let us know and we will try to pair you with another foster child to read to.

Are there any other ways I can get involved?

Yes. We are often seeking people to assist with fundraising activities and events. Please visit the fundraising section of our website or contact your local office for more information.