



Inspiring creativity and a love of writing in our kids

What we do

Unload is a creative writing programme with a difference. We are dedicated to creating a space for children to have fun with language.

We encourage kids' natural creativity through writing games and activities which harness their abundant imagination in a fun, relaxed and non-competitive environment.

Why is creativity so important?

Creativity involves ideas, invention, play, innovation, experimentation and risk-taking. It is a vital ingredient to success and fulfilment in life. All children have the potential to be creative. It is not the 'gift' of the few and is important to both the Arts and Sciences.

Some of the benefits in promoting creativity in our kids:

- ✓ developing lateral thinking skills
- ✓ problem-solving
- ✓ increased confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ enjoyment

Our philosophy

The programme is focussed on the process rather than the product. Our aim is to distance children from the feeling of not being good at writing, spelling or the pressure of having to perform.

Weekly explorations are designed to give students free rein creatively. We encourage children to express themselves, develop and discover new skills and, most importantly, have fun. Many studies highlight the link between fun and creative ideas.

Students' work, including spelling and grammar, is not marked or corrected. It is a personal choice if they wish to share work with the group. Most can't wait!



AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Unload is a creative-play based writing and language programme for primary school children in years 3-6 (stage 2 and 3)
- ❖ Each workshop runs for **one hour** either just before school or directly after school
- ❖ Maximum of 15 students per class
- ❖ All resources supplied
- ❖ Unload is facilitated by mentors who are passionate about encouraging creativity and a love of writing in our kids

Unload is a social business. We operate a sustainable business model while providing opportunities for children from all backgrounds and circumstances.

We proudly support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Cost - 10 week term \$150 per child

WORKSHOP VALUES

Creativity over formula

Content over correctness

Practice over theory

Programme Overview

The programme has been developed with an understanding of the key learning areas within the new national curriculum and aims to complement, rather than mirror, what children are doing at school. The focus changes each term and the programme is structured to build students skills and confidence as the term progresses. Each week writing games are introduced to cover specific themes such as imagery, metaphor, narrative, point of view, prompts, repetition and writing with pictures. All activities are flexible and are adapted to suit the individual student.

Each term a local author, illustrator or storyteller hosts a session to inspire students and show how creative writing works in the 'real world'. Unload aims to nurture and develop strong networks and opportunities for writers and educators within Newcastle's creative community.

At the end of term students have the opportunity to present a written piece to parents and carers and they also receive a 'brag' book containing a selection of each child's work. There will also be opportunities for pieces to be published on the Unload website later this year.

What's in it for your School?

Unload Creative Writing Workshops demonstrate that your school values creativity and offers students a diverse range of enrichment opportunities.

As part of our social business charter, Unload offers two positions each term free of charge to children selected by the school. The intention is for these positions to be offered to children the school feels may benefit from the programme but who may not be able to access it for financial or other reasons.

We understand that schools are extremely busy places so that's why we keep it simple. We look after all the paperwork including enrolments and deal directly with parents. We just ask for the use of a classroom and for promotional opportunities in the School newsletter. Let us know what more we can do to make the programme hassle-free for your school.

About us



Aleeta Cliff (right) has been teaching Linguistics and Writing Skills at the University of Newcastle for the past four years. Prior to this, Aleeta worked in children's publishing in Oxford, London, and Sydney as an Editor for Oxford University Press, Heinemann, and Allen & Unwin. She has worked with award-winning authors including Alison Lester (*The Magic Beach*) and Anna Fienberg (*The Magnificent Nose* and other *Marvels*). Aleeta has finally 'jumped the fence' and has her first children's book in progress.

Suzie Galwey (left) is an experienced corporate communicator working with organisations such as Shell, Orica and Ansett Airlines before moving into the non-profit sector with the Taronga Foundation and Habitat for Humanity Australia. She is currently completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Impact. Unload unites her passion for writing with making a difference.

For further information or to register your interest contact Suzie
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