

Parents and Carers Introduction Letter

Hello Parents and Carers,

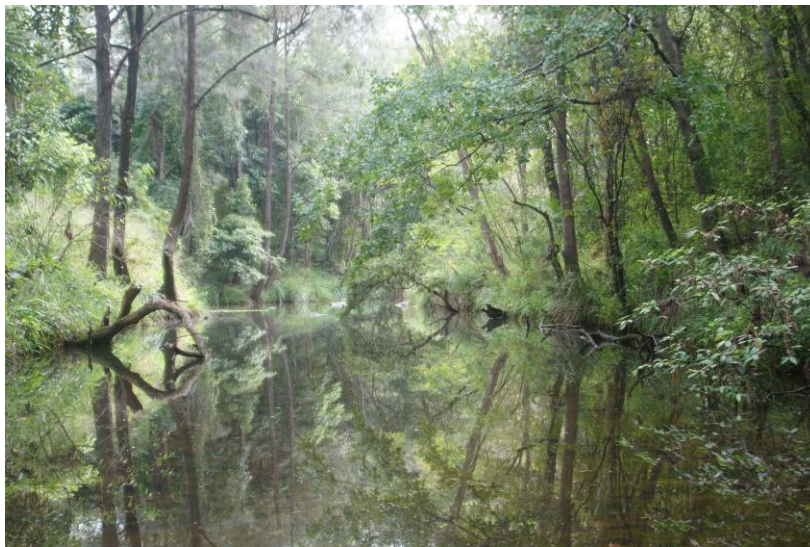
Please meet our friend, Gracie! Gracie is a Graceful Tree Frog and is coming to visit you for a short stay. She is part of Brisbane City Council's online project *Creek Neighbours* and is helping your child learn about the importance of keeping our waterways clean and healthy. You can help your child learn more about this important topic by completing the following during her stay.

1. Talk about:
 - Three things frogs need to survive (clean water, food and shelter)
 - Other animals who depend upon fresh, clean waterways for their survival.
 - How we can help keep our waterways clean and healthy.
2. Gracie likes stories, especially stories about frogs, creeks and other animals, so please read a story to her before she goes to sleep at night.

To help you start your discussion we have included some facts about frogs that you might like to share with your family. We have also included a checklist. Please use this to check everything is in the kit before you return it to your child's Kindy. Gracie will be required back at Kindy by (please insert date).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us, otherwise we encourage you to enjoy this opportunity to learn with your child and to have fun doing so.

Kind regards,
(insert name here).



All About Frogs!

Talk about:

Gracie's colour. She is green and yellow. These colours help her camouflage so she has less chance of being eaten by predators such as snakes and birds.

Responsible pet ownership. Cats and dogs off leash may attack creek animals and their faeces and urine pollutes waterways and other natural areas. For these reasons it is

important to walk your dog on a leash, pick up your dog's poo, stay on tracks and keep your animals inside at night. For information regarding Council off-leash areas visit Brisbane City Council's website and type in off-leash areas in the search bar.



Water smart behaviours. Anything that ends up in a drain ends up in your local creek and eventually Moreton Bay. In addition, stormwater drains do not treat water. Remember dispose of chemicals, rubbish garden waste and dog poo responsibly and keep them out of stormwater drains.

Share the following facts:

- Gracie, like most frogs, doesn't drink. Instead, she absorbs water through her skin. If the water is polluted, frogs will get sick and die. This is why a loss of frogs to an area is one of the first indicators of polluted waterways.
- Gracie has big orange eyes which help her to see and eat! As frogs swallow, they pull their bulging eyes into their skulls and push their dinner down their throat. Gulp!
- Frogs, like all animals, need three things to survive: fresh clean water, food and shelter.
- Frogs can't chew. They swallow their prey whole.
- Only male frogs croak.
- Frogs can breathe through their skin and through their lungs. They need to keep their skin moist to be able to breathe through their skin. They can even use their skin to absorb oxygen when underwater!
- Frogs' eyes and nose are at the top of their head so they can breathe and see when most of their body is underwater.
- While some frogs are coloured to fade into their surroundings (camouflage) others are brightly coloured to warn predators that they are poisonous.



Interesting Australian frogs:

Sunset Frog, Turtle Frog, Corroboree Frog, Eastern Pobblebonk Frog, Baw Baw Frog, Red-Eyed Tree Frog

Kit Checklist

In this bag you will find the following:

- Gracie, the Graceful Tree Frog toy
- Books to read to your child (include names of books below)

Suggested books

Benny Bungarra's big bush clean up

Lester and Clyde by James Reece

The Little Corroboree Frog by Tracy Holton-Ramirez and Angela Ramirez

The Flow of Water by Joy Cowley

On the River by Roland Harvey

50 Ways to Help our Planet Every Day by Penguin Random House Australia

- All About Frogs – An information sheet that includes fun frog facts and information relating to frogs.
- Kit Checklist – please use this to check everything is in the kit before you return it to your child's kindy.

