

## Rainbow Storytime

### What is Rainbow Story time?

Rainbow story time is a family friendly event aimed at younger children incorporating book reading, singing and dancing. The event is focussed on acceptance, anti-bullying, inclusion, being kind and having confidence in yourself. It will be full of colour, sparkle, flamboyance and fun, with children encouraged to come dressed up for the occasion. Erika and Coco Flash are the storytellers who will host the event.

### Who are the storytellers and what are their backgrounds?

Erika and Coco Flash are professional drag queen entertainers who have been reading at Libraries since 2019. They have many years' experience and qualifications in educating and entertaining younger children, teens and adults. Both are police vetted and certified to work with children and young people.

### What books will they be reading?

The books will be selected from a range of published titles that are already in the Rotorua Library children's collection. The children's collection is managed under the Library Collections Policy, which complies with the Films, Videos and Publications Act 1993, Copyright Act 1993 and is guided by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions Statues.

### When is Rainbow Story time and who can attend?

Rainbow Story Time is scheduled for Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.30am in the Community Pride Space on the ground floor.

While the event is targeted at pre-schoolers and their caregivers, any member of the public is welcome to attend. Like many events registration is required to ensure those attending have an enjoyable and safe experience. To register please email [library@rotorualc.nz](mailto:library@rotorualc.nz) with the number of adults and children you would like to attend this fun storytime.

The Community Pride Space is part of the open plan nature of the ground floor. This means people in other spaces may hear the event. Users can choose to either head to a quieter space within the Library or come back at another time.

### Why is the Library hosting Rainbow Story time?

The Rotorua Library provides materials, services and information about a wide range of topics that contain different viewpoints, respecting people's right to freedom of information. As such, we hold events and activities that reflect the diversity in our community. We aim to provide positive experiences, share different perspectives and encourage understanding, a sense of acceptance and belonging to all members of the community.

We recognise that not everyone will share the same beliefs. It is not the role of a Library to hide or withdraw access to challenging ideas or topics. As a dynamic part of the community, the Library provides information in a variety of ways to stimulate learning and an exchange of information. The Library aims to present information in a respectful way that enables individuals to make their own decisions about what read or attend.

### Does Rotorua Lakes Council support this event?

The Council supports the Library to be an inclusive and safe space that encourages understanding and tolerance in our community.