

*A stunning underwater adventure*

# Reef School

A decorative graphic below the title featuring stylized coral in shades of orange and yellow, and small white fish icons, all set against a dark blue background.

 ABC  
COMMERCIAL

# Welcome to Reef School, where every day is an underwater adventure!

Join the little 'Reefies' and their teacher Mr Flip as they discover the extraordinary wonders of an imaginary coral reef and the amazing world around it.

With stories, songs, excursions and games, every day is as colourful as the coral around them. Narrated by Emma Watkins (*The Wiggles*), and combining astounding real life underwater footage with charming, funny character voices, *Reef School* is created and developed by the award-winning ABC Children's Department.

It celebrates the spectacular world under the sea and imagines the daily lives of a class of sea creatures (the Reefies) as they navigate their way through early childhood.

Like any classroom, there are ups and downs, and above all, a wide-eyed curiosity about everything new.

The show uses stunning underwater footage to create a heart-warming cast of relatable characters and fantastically fishy storylines.

From the commissioning team behind *Bluey*, *Reef School* is tailored to engage and entertain – children and parents will delight in the Reefies' daily adventures, while being awed by the wondrous underwater setting.



# CHARACTERS

## Narrator

Every day at *Reef School* is a brand-new adventure full of stories and surprises for Mr Flip and the Reefies. The narrator playfully guides the audience through each episode with curiosity, care and a touch of comedy.



## Mr Flip

Playful and patient, Mr Flip is a nurturing teacher who always finds a way to get all the Reefies excited about learning and to embrace their quirks that make them different.

## Ms Flouncy

Mr Flip's antithesis, Ms Flouncy is an eccentric – sometimes flustered – lionfish who loves helping the little Reefies express their creativity and discover other parts of the reef.



## Murray The Eel

A twist on your cranky neighbourhood eel, Murray is a moray eel who is a sucker for great puns and jokes. Despite his exterior, he has a kind heart and is always empathetic and supportive to the Reefies.

## Other Reef Residents

There are a plethora of other adult, reef residents who help the little Reefies out with their lessons and adventures throughout the show.

# THE REEFIES

Each of the little Reefies is at a unique stage of emotional and social development, reflecting the many steps that children navigate as throughout their school years.



## Ray

Ray is a daredevil and can be very competitive. Like any young stingray, he loves rough and tumble play.

## Surg

Surg is a surgeon fish with a brain as big as a whale. She's the first to put up her fin to answer a question, or volunteer to adjudicate games.



## Oli

Full of energy and always ready for an adventure, Oli is a colour-changing octopus who loves camouflaging herself to impress her fellow little Reefies.



## Chips

Chips is a thoughtful, loveable pufferfish who is extraordinarily curious about life on the reef.



# THE REEFIES



## Ginger and Stripes

Twins Ginger and Stripes are a pair of energetic, cheeky clownfish who could be like the Weasley twins of the reef.

## The Snappers

The Snappers always hang together and speak in unison. They are a 'Greek chorus' in each story, reiterating key observations made by the show's characters.



## Jaws

Jaws loves two things: digging and sand. Luckily his mouth is made for moving sand, though it can sometimes be awkward if he has his mouth full when he has to answer a question!



# VOICE OVER CAST

The wonderful cast features actors like Emma Watkins, Tony Armstrong and Shane Jenek/Courtney Act as well as young, emerging child actors for the little Reefies!

## Emma Watkins Narrator

Dancer and filmmaker Emma Watkins began her performance career early from the age of three, nurturing her love of dance performing ballet, Irish, hip-hop, tap and contemporary dance.

Over the last two decades, Emma integrated sign language into her role as the first female Wiggle and hopes to continue to improve access for the Deaf community with her recently launched children's character, Emma Memma.



## Tony Armstrong Mr Flip

Logie award-winner Tony Armstrong grew up in rural NSW and is a proud Barranbinya man. In 2019 he became the first Indigenous person to call live action AFL on commercial radio.

In 2021, the ABC announced Tony as the full-time sports presenter on *News Breakfast*. His other television credits include *The Weekly* with Charlie Pickering and regular appearances as a panelist on *The Project*.



## Courtney Act/ Shane Jenek Ms Flouncy

Courtney Act is a contemporary artist and queer community advocate. Courtney is the host of *One Plus One* (ABC); co-hosts the podcast *Brenda, Call Me* (NOVA), and is the bestselling author of *Caught in the Act* by Shane Jenek. Courtney was the winner of *Celebrity Big Brother 21* (UK), a runner-up on *RuPaul's Drag Race* season 6 (USA) and the runner-up of *Dancing with the Stars 16* (Australia).



# EPISODE FORMAT

- Each 11 minute episode of *Reef School* opens with the narrator establishing the reef location and episode's key plot.
- The A story and characters for the episode are introduced. It could be a talent quest, windy weather or a lost item that drives the plot.
- We also establish the gentle stakes of the drama, usually centred around one character.
- A song, nursery rhyme or 'told story' bridges the action between the set up and conclusion.
- Along the way, Mr Flip gently guides the Reefies through emotional beats of the story, with the narrator occasionally providing a holistic observation about a key moment.
- Each episode concludes with the character arc resolved and a whimsical observation from the narrator or Mr Flip.



# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## **Episode 1: Show And Tell**

The Little Reefies are super excited for show and tell, except for Chips the pufferfish who can't think of anything to talk about.

## **Episode 2: Daddy Drop-Off**

It's the fishiest Father's Day ever as the Reefies' dads visit Reef School. To celebrate, Mr Flip tells a very special story about baby turtle.

## **Episode 3: Funny Neighbours**

When Chips the pufferfish moves in next door to Murray the eel, he wants to learn how to be a great neighbour.

## **Episode 4: Shipwreck Adventure**

Mr Flip takes the Reefies on an excursion to explore an amazing shipwreck.

## **Episode 5: Best Digger**

The Reefies have a sand digging competition.

## **Episode 6: Piggyback Dash**

The Reefies team up to compete in their ocean-famous piggyback race.

## **Episode 7: Cleaning Station**

Doug the dugong shows the Reefies that cleaning can be fun!

## **Episode 8: Talent Show**

Ms Flouncy the lionfish helps the Reefies organise a talent show for Mr Flip. But Chips the pufferfish has a sudden case of stage fright.

## **Episode 9: Glowing Fairies**

It's naptime at Reef School, but Ginger and Stripes the clownfish want to keep playing games.

## **Episode 10: Mystery Shell**

When the Jaws the jawfish loses his special shell, the Reefies play a game of detectives to solve the mystery.

## **Episode 11: Fastest Fish**

Mr Flip is at home with a cold, so Mr Quick the batfish visits Reef School to give the Reefies a swimming lesson.



# EPISODE SYNOPSES

## Episode 12: Plastic Visitor

The Reefies are puzzled when an unusual visitor floats into Reef School. Mr Flip tells them a story about a fishy friend who met a real life human.

## Episode 13: Finding Friends

It's Ray's little sister's first day in the Reefling nursery and he's worried that she'll be lonely.

## Episode 14: Wishy Washy

It's a wild and windy day on the reef! Ray helps Ms Flouncy escape from the swishy-swirly water, while Mr Flip tells a wonderful tale about a sea slug.

## Episode 15: Space Explorers

Mr Flip encourages the Reefies to let their imaginations run free, and their imaginations turn a game into an intergalactic adventure.

## Episode 16: Dance Class

Shrimpy the shrimp is feeling grumpy! But a special dance class with Mr Trigger could be just what's needed to cheer him up.

## Episode 17: Rainbow Reef

Oli the octopus discovers that the coral is turning white. Chips' Nan tells the Reefies a special story about the colours of the reef.

## Episode 18: Follow The Leader

The Reefies want to know all about getting older. Mr Flip tells them a story about a seal who goes on a grown-up adventure to meet a sea dragon.

## Episode 19: Super Reefies

Ray the stingray can't work out what his superpower is.

## Episode 20: Tidy Treasure

When Doug the dugong cleans up Reef School, Ginger the clownfish can't find her special sea grass.

