



Reef School in Early Education



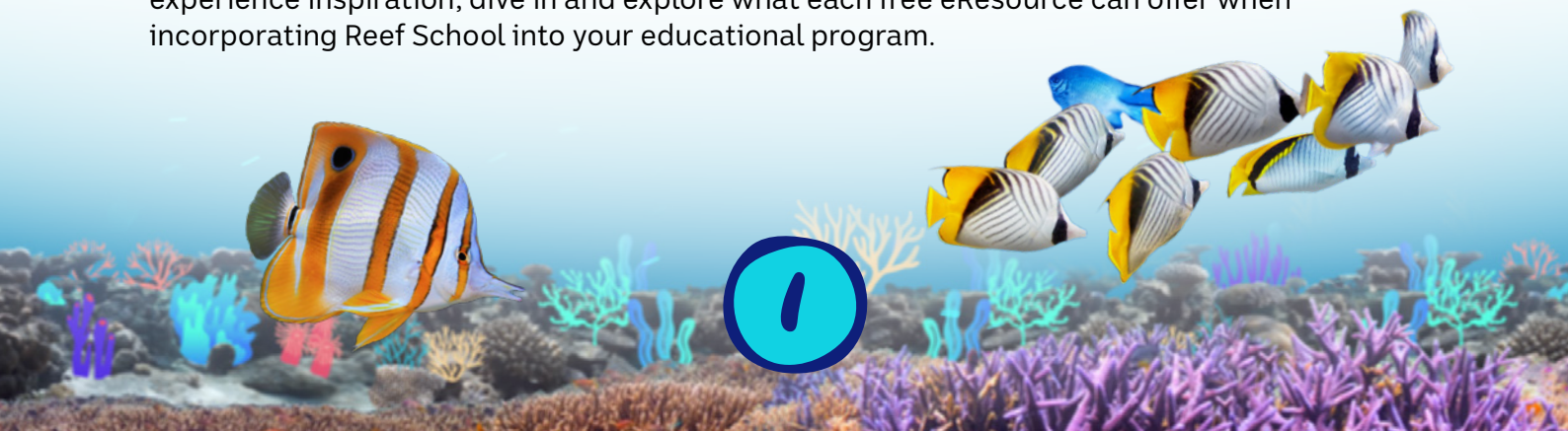
Background

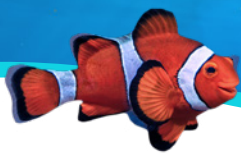
Reef School illuminates a spectacular world under the sea through the daily adventures of the 'little Reefies'; as they go to school, play games, solve problems and sing songs. Magnificent underwater footage and animated effects are used to create a heart-warming cast of characters and relatable stories for preschool aged children to enjoy. Reef School nurtures curiosity about oceans and marine life, while celebrating the beauty of Australia's coral reefs. Children will be delighted by the colour, diversity and wonder of Reef School!

Early Learning with Reef School

Wrapped up in each joyful episode, are opportunities for viewers of all ages to learn about marine biology. Expert scripting advice was provided by the education team at [the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority](#) (The Reef Authority). Teachers and educators will find helpful links to The Reef Authority's educational resources included throughout this document.

The Reef Authority resources are designed for a range of learning stages; from preschool, through to middle primary. Whether to enhance curriculum content knowledge or for learning experience inspiration, dive in and explore what each free eResource can offer when incorporating Reef School into your educational program.





'Mr Flip' the Green Sea Turtle

Themes & Concepts Explored

Reef School promotes curiosity and wonder about marine animals, ocean ecosystems and social/emotional development.

Marine animals

The unique characteristics, diets and behaviours of a wide range of incredible sea creatures are featured in Reef School. While watching, encourage children to look out for;

- Anemone
- Crab
- Dolphin
- Dugong
- Eel
- Fish
- Marine turtle
- Octopus
- Shark
- Stingray

Explore with The Reef Authority

- [Reef Babies](#): A series of printable worksheet activities designed for school aged students to learn about animal reproduction on the Great Barrier Reef.
- [Snapshot of Reef Animals](#) and [Dolphins and Whales](#): Comprehensive webpages perfect for educators wishing to build content knowledge.
- Fact-filled posters: [We Need Sharks](#), [Floating Fertiliser Factories](#), [Cryptic Crawly Creatures](#), [Ancient Reptiles of the Sea](#), [Be Fish Friendly](#).



'Chips' the Pufferfish

Ocean ecosystems

Fun facts about Australia's coral reefs are woven into episode storylines, including:

- Biodiversity and the interdependence of living things.
- Habitats and homes of reef animals.
- Coral and marine plant life species.

Explore with The Reef Authority

[Reef Guardians Exploring the Reef](#) and [Reef Guardians Habitat Investigations](#): These eBooklets are geared for lower to middle primary school. Early childhood educators may find the information helpful as background reading when facilitating discussion and project work with younger children.

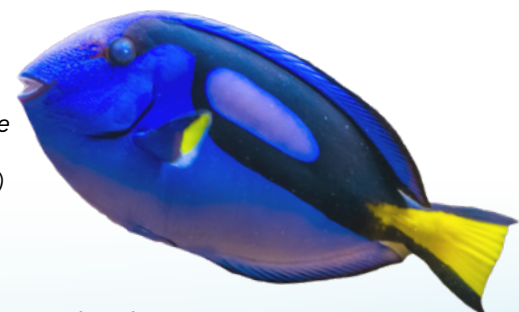


School is in for 'The Snappers'

Social and emotional development

Preschoolers will recognise themselves and their playground peers amongst the class of 'little Reefies' as they navigate the social dynamics of a school setting, including:

- Getting along with others.
- Recognising and regulating different emotions.
- Playing games with rules.



'Surg' the Blue Surgeonfish (or Blue Tang)





Early Education Curriculum Links

Watching Reef School can support educators to:

- Ignite children's interest in the natural world and plan cross-curriculum learning experiences.
- Help children build deeper understandings about ocean ecosystems through STEAM (science, technology, arts, engineering and mathematics).
- Extend children's learning about environmental concepts such as sustainability, ocean conservation and connectedness to nature.
- Explore different emotions with children and promote the development of social skills.

Explore with The Reef Authority

This collection of short, animated videos (produced by The Reef Authority) explore the effects of climate change on reef environments. Geared for middle to upper primary students, or to build educator content knowledge. Directs to YouTube: [Reef HQ Aquarium](#).



'Ginger and Spice' the Eastern Clown Anemonefish

Teaching and learning emerging from Reef School

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

- **Learning Outcome 1.4**
Children learn to interact in relation to others with care, empathy and respect.
- **Learning Outcome 2.4**
Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.
- **Learning Outcome 4.1**
Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity.
- **Learning Outcome 5.5**
Children use information and communication technologies to access information, investigate ideas and represent their thinking.



'Ray' the Blue Spotted Stingray





Follow-Up Ideas

After watching *Reef School*, here are some ways to turn viewing into playful doing:

- **Rhymes** – Invite children to make up new rhyming words to familiar songs sung in the show, promoting creativity and exploration of sounds for language and literacy learning.
- **Storytelling** - Create a small world ‘reef’ sensory play experience using a shallow plastic tub, water, marine life figurines and shells. Encourage children to re-tell stories told on the show and explore concepts through imaginative play e.g. turtle life cycles or camouflage animal behaviours.
- **Games** – Engage children in shared social experiences by playing group games featured on the show e.g. hide and seek, detectives, treasure hunt or outdoor races.
- **STEAM** – Create a ‘Reef School’ diorama together using recycled materials and explore environmental impacts on the Great Barrier Reef, including - coral bleaching; rubbish pollution; threatened plant and animal species.

For ideas on creating a living and non-living diorama, go to page 4 of [Great Barrier Reef Junior Outlook](#) (activity package).

- **Download the Hello Reefies! e-book** to learn more fun facts about the *Reef School* friends. Share riddles and giggles to help children think in creative and divergent ways about weird and wonderful sea life!

More from ABC Kids

- [The Wonder Gang: The Great Barrier Reef Question](#)
- [Play School Through the Windows: Underwater Coral Adventure](#)
- [Play School Through the Windows: Under the Sea Creatures](#)
- [Play School Through the Windows: Ocean](#)
- [Play School’s Green Team Series: Early Education Notes](#)
- [Play School’s Sea and Space series: Early Education Notes](#)
- [Dr Nij Explains Science: What is marine biology?](#)



‘Ms Flouncy’ the Lionfish



‘Mr Trigger’ the Titan Triggerfish



‘Oli’ the Coconut Octopus

www.abc.net.au/abckids/early-education/

This resource is produced by ABC Kids Early Education in collaboration with the Australian Government Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Copyright ABC Kids Early Education 2022

