

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue sweater and white shorts, stands behind two young girls. The girl on the left is wearing a striped t-shirt with pink floral patterns and light blue shorts. The girl on the right is wearing a colorful floral tunic and light blue shorts. They are all smiling. The background shows a night event with colorful lights, a large silver disco ball, and a sign that says "DARLING HARBOUR PIER".

# A visit to A Spring School Holiday Event at Darling Harbour Pier Street Underpass



**DARLING  
HARBOUR**



**SOCIAL STORY**

Updated September 2024 V1.0

# Guidelines

Thank you for choosing to use a Social Story written for A Spring School Holiday Event at Darling Harbour Pier Street Underpass.

This Social Story is written by Access Ability Australia and is suited for a person who may live with autism spectrum disorder, a language disorder, social communication difficulties and/or a cognitive delay/disability.

- For your Social Story to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines.
- Read Social Story often and preferably two weeks in advance of visit.
- Social Story to be read and shared in an environment free of distractions.
- Be calm, comfortable and honest when reading a Social Story.
- Help the participant comprehend key points and consistently monitor for level of understanding.
- Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Social Story to celebrate success.

We hereby acknowledge the support and assistance provided by [Access Ability Australia](#) in helping to prepare this Social Story.

We express our sincere appreciation to Access Ability Australia for their pivotal role in assisting us to highlight its commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Their expertise and support have played a vital role in ensuring that A Spring School Holiday Event at Darling Harbour Pier Street Underpass is welcoming to all individuals in our community.

# Sensory Guide

A Sensory Guide helps people understand what they might feel, hear, see or smell. It's useful for people who are sensitive to sensory experiences, such as those with autism or sensory processing disorder. This guide can be helpful in dealing with new or challenging situations.

At A Spring School Holiday Event at Darling Harbour :

I might feel

- Hard, soft, wet and dry art and craft materials
- Change in ground surface
- Compost/worms
- Enclosed space (Russ the Bus)
- Shared personal space
- Water spray ("Plant" workshop)

I might hear

- Amplified voices
- Didgeridoo playing (an Australian Aboriginal wind instrument made from a hollowed-out tree branch, making a deep sound)
- Entertainment
- Performers
- Music
- Singing
- Traffic

I might see

- Dim lighting (underpass roof)
- Bright lights (marquee workshop area)
- Children playing
- Crowd movement
- Dancing

I might smell

- Compost
- Food/Drink
- Nature ("Plant" workshop)
- Paint
- Sunscreen





I am going to a school holiday event at the Pier Street Underpass at Darling Harbour.

It is on Wednesday October 2 to Saturday October 5.

This event is organised by Place Making NSW.

This event is for kids to have fun, be imaginative, and get creative.



I will need to wear comfortable shoes and clothing.

I might want to bring my headphones or earbuds, along with some food and a drink.



When I arrive, I might see lots of people. There will be event staff wearing black shirts with the “NSW government” logo.

Event staff can answer questions and help me with directions.

There will be a big marquee.



There will be an Art Cubes activity under the Pier Street Underpass.

The Art Cubes activity will take place every day from 10:30am to 3:30pm.

James Gulliver Hancock (pictured) is an artist who will show me what to do.



I can paint or colour an Art Cube using “paint by numbers”.

Each part of the Art Cube has a number that matches a colour.

I can paint or colour parts of the Art Cube using the colour that goes with the number.





Russ the Story Bus will be there every day from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

This is a bus filled with books.

Inside, there are couches where I can sit and read.

There will also be storytelling sessions under the Pier Street Underpass.

I can sit on a bean bag and listen to someone read a story.



There will be a “First Nations Story Telling” workshop on Wednesday October 2 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

This workshop will be inside the marquee.

There will be two different areas for this workshop.



In the first area, there will be Aboriginal stories and songs.

I can learn how to make animal sounds, like a kookaburra.

In the second area, there will be art and craft activities inspired by the stories and songs.

I can paint leaves and make colourful art that celebrates nature and culture.



There will be a “Big City Building” workshop on Thursday October 4 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

The workshop will be inside the marquee.

I can learn how to make a model of a city using recycled materials.

The task is to build the city without using glue or tape!

Staff will be there to help me.



There will be a “Plant” workshop on Friday October 4 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

This workshop will be inside the marquee.

Staff will help me learn how plants grow.

I can pretend to be a plant.

Staff might spray a little water on me to help me “bloom” like a plant!



Staff will show me how to make my own potting mix with compost and worms.

I can plant flowers and edible plants and take them home.

I can also decorate a paper bag to carry my plant home.



There will be a “Cartoon Character” workshop on Saturday October 5 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

This workshop will be inside the marquee.

I can learn how to create my own cartoon or comic book character.



Pier Street Underpass might feel very busy and noisy.

There will be lots of people and lots of different noises including:

- people talking, laughing and having fun
- music
- people reading stories on microphones.





I can wear my headphones or earbuds to help with the noise.

I can go to the small marquee for some quiet time.

My trusted adult or staff can show me where the small marquee is.



The Spring School Holiday Program at Pier Street Underpass is so much fun!

# Accessibility

- View [accessibility information](#) for Darling Harbour.
- Closest [accessible parking](#) at Darling Quarter carpark. Restrictions apply.
- General parking available at Darling Quarter carpark. Restrictions apply.
- Lift access from Darling Quarter carpark.
- Accessible pathway from Darling Quarter carpark to Pier Street Underpass.
- Other parking options available. <https://www.darlingharbour.com/getting-here>
- Two open entry points into Piers Street Underpass school holiday events.
- Ground surface of flat paving, astroturf (artificial grass) and carpet (small area inside marquee).
- Toilets, including accessible toilets, approximately 30 metres from Pier Street Underpass.
- Closest toilet with hoist and adult sized change table at International Convention Centre, Level 2, 14 Darling Drive, Sydney. Baby change facilities within these toilets.
- All activities undercover.
- Each activity with staff to support and supervise.
- Pram parking available.
- Quiet space available in separate marquee with chairs, headphones, low lighting and sensory toys.
- Wayfinding signage.
- Rangers on site, supervising events.
- Rangers with first aid training.
- Fencing around event area include planter boxes and picket fences.
- Furniture includes bean bags, plastic seats with back and armrests as well as bench seats without back and armrests.
- Parent seating area has seats with back and armrests and recliner chairs.
- Parent seating area has giant Jenga game for pre-school aged children.
- Open entry to workshop area in marquee.



## Russ the Story Bus

- three steps up into bus. Handrails both sides.
- bus has couches with backrests.

# CONTACT

Event address:

Pier Street Underpass

Pier Street

Darling Harbour NSW 2000

Ph 02 9240 8500

(Placemaking NSW)

[www.darlingharbour.com/venues/pier-street-underpass](http://www.darlingharbour.com/venues/pier-street-underpass)



**DARLING  
HARBOUR**



**NSW**  
GOVERNMENT