

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week May 20th-26th is Education Week. This week is the 74th time Education Week has been celebrated. Education Week aims to positively profile and celebrate the strengths and achievements of Victoria's government education sector.

Education Week 2018 is all about celebrating the arts and is an opportunity for all schools to showcase the work we are doing for students in arts subjects including dance, drama, music, visual arts and media arts. At Melton West Primary School we celebrate the Arts through our daily curriculum and participation in events such as The MWPS Art Show, School Concert, and State School Spectacular. There is also dance, Choir, Cultural Club, Drumbeat, Instrumental Music and Assembly performances. Our visual program takes place on a weekly basis and you can see the quality of work produced by the wonderful displays set up in the corridors by our brilliant Art teachers.

Student engagement in the arts can help improve educational outcomes by boosting motivation and creativity, building confidence and self-esteem, leadership skills, cooperation and collaboration as well as forging friendships and a sense of belonging.

The celebrating the arts theme aligns to the Education State target 'Learning for Life', which aims to improve learning outcomes for every child, in every classroom, in every community to give everyone the best chance to succeed in work, and in life.

Kind regards

Jennifer O'Connor
Assistant Principal
Prep-2 Learning Community



Getting it right in Reading!

Tools readers use to solve words

The ultimate goal of reading is to make meaning, to understand and to comprehend. To help them do this, readers of all ages use information sources known as cueing systems to help them solve words.

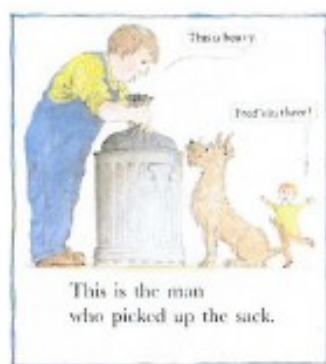
There are three information systems/cueing systems available for readers to access while reading:

1. Meaning (Semantic)
2. Structure (Syntactic)
3. Visual (Graphophonic)

Readers sometimes rely more heavily on one type of cueing system when solving words, for example, visual cues. However, successful reading involves using the three cueing systems together which is known as 'cross-checking'.

Below are some examples of these cueing systems in action. Some prompts you can use to support your child to use these cueing system while reading are provided below.

Meaning

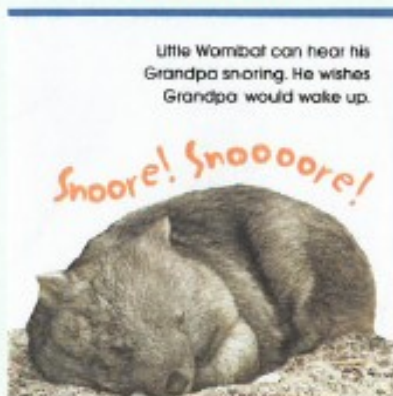


This is the man who picked up the bag.

Does it make sense?

Try that again.
You said _____. Does that make sense?
Look at the picture
Did that make sense?
Try _____, would that make sense?
What would make sense?

Structure

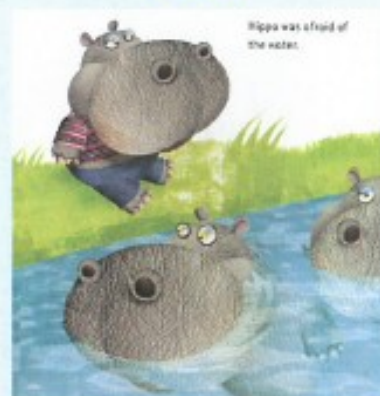


Little Wombat can hear his Grandpa playing.

Does it sound right?

Does it sound right?
Is that how we say it?
Can you say it that way?
What would sound right?
Try _____. Would that sound right?

Visual



Hippo was friend of the water.

Does it look right?

Get your mouth ready to make the first sound.
What does it start with?
Slide through the whole word.
Can you see a part that you know inside the word, e.g. c a t
NB Must be a part that will help decode the whole word, e.g. c a t but not w a n t
Stretch out the sounds

Sarah Marshall- Leading Teacher Literacy

Marvellous Maths

Explore maths every day: The power of maths for young children

Monday

Make collections:

Collect objects from the outdoors, like stones, leaves or twigs

Sort them into groups and count how many items are in each group

How many items are there in your favourite collection?



Tuesday

Try measuring:

Explore ways of measuring using sticks, foot prints or hand lengths

Measure the height of people in your family

Who is the tallest? Who is the shortest?



Wednesday

Work out ways to measure ingredients for a recipe:

Explore ways of measuring using a cup, a jug, a teaspoon and a tablespoon

If you have kitchen scales weigh different foods such as a packet of flour, a bag of rice or some vegetables

Put the things you have weighed in order from lightest to heaviest.



Thursday

Think of ways of moving with maths outdoors:

Find ways to balance your weight with a friend on the see-saw

How many steps does it take to get from the park bench to the slide?

What other maths games can you play in the playground?



Friday

Find patterns:

Try following a pattern someone else has started and continue the pattern on your own

Make a pattern using pebbles, pegs or pieces of coloured paper

What patterns can you see around you?



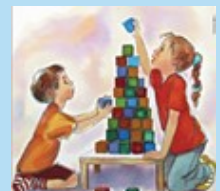
Saturday

Stack building blocks:

Build a tower as high as you can

Can you build a tower that is taller than you are?

What other structures can you make with building blocks?



Sunday

Seek out shapes:

Start and finish a jigsaw puzzle

Find four or more different shapes in your house

Draw some of the shapes you can see inside your



Kind regards,

Courtney Templeton

Numeracy

insights

Fostering healthy sibling relationships

by Michael Grose



If your kids constantly fight with each other, then don't despair. All that emotional energy isn't going to waste.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities.

Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

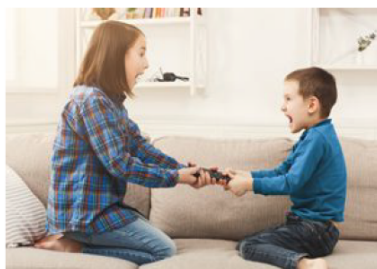
Anecdotally, it seems that sibling fighting is one of the biggest impediments to parents enjoying family life. Many parents tell me that if their children stopped bickering their lives would improve dramatically.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn't support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down than it is about the frequency of squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are five practical strategies to use:

MODEL good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear 'L' plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you've said something upsetting to your partner or your children.



Help kids MANAGE their emotions

"Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me." Usually someone's feelings get hurt when siblings argue, so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

MONITOR sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for signs of discord within sibling relationships. Kids can sort out some disputes themselves, but you may need to be ready to intervene and assist with peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net, when one child continually appears to be on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

MENTOR them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflicts out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. They often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counterproductive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions. Provide suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

Encourage them to MAKE UP

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so intervening gets tricky sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean a child has to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.



Children without siblings can learn conflict resolution skills by spending time with other peers and friends, and by having parents who are willing to argue with them without coming on too strong or laying down the law.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together. They are natural bedfellows. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.



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