

Term 3, 2018

Week 3 (30 July –)

Prep – Year 2

Reading and viewing – searching for ‘doing words’

Explain to your child that today you will read a fiction book about ‘eels’ with them. Before you read, brainstorm everything that your child knows about the topic. This is called ‘getting knowledge ready’ and is a fundamental pre-reading activity that teachers do with their students at Westgarth. Encourage your child to present this anyway that they like, such as a list or a mind map.

Read the text ‘Ollie’s Jar’ with your child. You may even wish to reread the text with them a couple of times. The text can be viewed online on <http://www.magickeys.com/books/ollie/index.html>

Explain that today we are searching for particular words that have helped the author give a good description of what the eel is doing in the text.

Prep – Year 1 Task

Focus on verbs (doing words). There are a few in the text to find. Encourage your child to consider synonyms for each word to assist them in building their vocabulary.

Year 2 / extension Task

Consider focusing on adverbs. These are the words that express a manner of place, time or degree in the text, such as ‘under’, ‘through’ and ‘around’. Encourage your child to consider synonyms for each word to assist them in building their vocabulary.

You may also choose to use your child’s home reading book to search for verbs and adverbs. Building up a sound understanding of grammar will be beneficial in your child’s transition into year 3.

Writing – write a non-fiction text

Often as parents we provide our children with opportunity to write stories and recounts of their life experiences. Rarely do we encourage them to compose non-fiction texts about topics of interest.

Firstly, brainstorm with your child some topic ideas. Some ideas might be a favourite animal, a place or even a toy. Discuss and plan what information that they know (or could research to find) about the topic. A Lotus Diagram is a great planning tool for writing. It looks similar to a naughts and crosses board, with the topic or heading in the centre box. Ideas for facts are then written (key words only) or drawn in each box. Please note that they do not have to fill in every box. Overleaf there is a blank template that you could print and use with your child for this planning phase of writing.

Example:

Description: Circular shell, long, neck, webbed feet	Diet: Omnivore, Frogs, aquatic plants, insects	Habitat: Freshwater, swamps, rivers, creeks
Status: Non-threatened	Topic/book title: Eastern Snake-necked Turtles	As pets: Aquarium with filter, light, easy to look after
Distribution: Eastern Australia, Tasmania	Biology: Females dig nests in soil	Diagram: Label parts of turtle

Blank template

	Topic/book title:	

The above example is for a child planning a text about a specific species of turtle. Your child's plan does not have to be as detailed, they may only draw pictures in the boxes. The idea is so that they have planned their ideas prior to writing.

Support your child to now compose a non-fiction text from their plan. They may want to ask their teacher for some coloured paper to make a nice front cover for it. As an alternative, they may even wish to create a digital book. Programs such as PowerPoint and Keynote are perfect for this. If you have an iPad at home, we recommend Creative Book Builder to create digital texts. Not only will it look professional but you can also save this to your iBooks library shelf and view it anytime on iOS devices.

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/creative-book-builder/id451041428?mt=8>



Mathematics – learning to calculate money through developmental play

Calculating money is a skill that is taught from foundation (prep) onwards. The Victorian Curriculum suggests that prep aged students represent simple, everyday financial situations involving money. Basically this involves using concrete materials to add and subtract small groups of numbers. By the end of Level 2 we aim for students to be able to count and order small collections of Australian coins and notes according to their value.

Setting up a pretend shop in your home is a great way to enable your child to learn about the real world activity of shopping, goods, prices, getting change, and the expectations and good manners for shopping. They will enjoy the role play, taking turns to be customer and shop keeper, writing prices, keeping the shop clean and tidy, restocking the shelves etc. You could even bring out the dress up box, complete with old handbags and wallets!

For mathematical benefit, price the items in various ways depending on your mathematical goals, including '3 for twenty cents', 'ten for two dollars', 'half price today', 'buy two and get another one free' etc.



If your child has other siblings, you may find that this imaginary play can continue with minimal parent intervention, but take time to observe whether your child is using their mathematical knowledge. Mathematical benefit may be increased if other family members pretend to be customers. Remember to check that correct change is given!