

## School Readiness Activity Ideas

In the last newsletter edition we discussed the signs of being ready to start school. With the end of year school holidays fast approaching in this edition I have shared some ideas on what you can do in the holidays prior to school commencing to help your child's transition.

There are many activities that we can undertake with young children that can have a positive effect on their development and promote school readiness. These include:

- Reading books with your child
- teaching them action songs and nursery rhymes
- Playing with letters and numbers
- Cutting, pasting, using play doh to help fine motor skills
- Play listening games such as 'statues' (e.g., Play music and dance. When you stop the music they must stand still.)

The following link to ABC kids- school readiness preschool activities also has MANY more creative things to do. <http://www.abckid.com.au/>

## Christmas Gift Ideas

**Needing an idea for a child's Christmas present?** What about a book? Do you find it hard to know what is a 'good' book to choose? Perhaps consider one of the past Speech Pathology Book of the Year winners. Each award is based on the book's appeal to children, interactive quality and ability to assist speech pathologists and parents in communication and literacy development.

This link takes you to details on all the past winners-

[https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/whats\\_on/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year/SPAweb/Whats\\_On/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year/Book\\_of\\_the\\_Year.aspx?hkey=6d7d21b1-0cd6-4b86-91e3-11884f031a02](https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/whats_on/Book_of_the_Year/SPAweb/Whats_On/Book_of_the_Year/Book_of_the_Year.aspx?hkey=6d7d21b1-0cd6-4b86-91e3-11884f031a02)

Below are the 2014 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the year winners-

Young Children (2 - 5 years) "Seadog" by Clare Saxby. With great age-appropriate language and fantastic descriptive vocabulary, Seadog uses word play, phrase repetition and rhythm to engage the reader. It facilitates early word learning through descriptive language and draws the reader in with a sense of wonder and connection to the story. Seadog also promotes prediction and problem solving and facilitates discussion with its easily identifiable characters and situations. The beautiful illustrations also to it its appeal – a great book.

Lower Primary (5 - 8 years) "Sophie Scott Goes South" by Alison Lester. Sophie Scott is only nine years old, but she's going to Antarctica on an icebreaker with her dad, the ship's captain. During the voyage to Mawson Station and back, Sophie keeps a diary. She sees icebergs, penguins, seals and whales. She makes new friends, wonders at the southern lights and even becomes stranded in a blizzard! This book has universal appeal and is supported by beautiful photos and readers are introduced to a variety of descriptive language and vocabulary in a fun and engaging way.

Upper Primary (8 - 12 years) "After" by Morris Gleitzman. A remarkable book looking at a challenging period in history (World War 2). It explores issues of identity, loss, grief, friendship, choice making, and problem solving. The narrative is engaging and the characters speak in easily recognisable age-appropriate language which makes sure the reader champions the protagonist from the first chapter. After will lead to discussion during reading, as well as long after the book has finished.

Indigenous Children "Two Mates" by Melanie Prewett. The true story of two young boys and their special mateship growing up in Broome in Australia's far north. Jack and Raf fish for salmon, hunt for barni, and dress up as superheroes as they explore their coastal home and prove that friendship has no boundaries. Two Mates is a great tale and uses appropriate and accessible language for young indigenous readers and explores the importance of sharing social opportunities, connectedness and friendship. There is a strong sense of fun and connection to the land is woven through the story.