

The Royal Show: A Carnival of Words!!!



The Premier's Reading and Be Active Challenges have been designed to get kids reading and moving respectively! The goal of this term's Spotlight Series in Literacy has been to get kids talking! The underlying message every week has been to talk with your kids, focus on their vocabulary (the words they know and use) and enjoy reading together each night being *mindful* of talking about the books you read together! Events like The Royal Show provide ample opportunity to get kids talking enthusiastically and authentically with you!

The smells, the sounds, the jubilation and excitement and the new and varied experiences one can have at the show lend itself well to many conversations with children. What did they eat? What did they see? What was their favourite thing/s? Did they enjoy watching...? How did they feel when they were on various rides? How did the fireworks sound and can they describe how they looked? Using their senses to retell events is wonderful for a child's vocabulary!

Talking about the show after it has occurred also ensures children talk in the past tense about something that has already occurred. This is a major learning area for children and has been identified over the years at LNPS as a major area of development. Children need to be able to change words into their past tense, understand how word endings work e.g. stood rather than 'stand', bought rather than 'buyed' or rode rather than 'rided'! It is crucial for young children to practice how our language works in the past tense and it is critical parents correct tense errors the moment they happen so children receive instant feedback about how our language works. All outings are very useful for this type of conversation and the difference they can make to your child's language skills cannot be emphasised enough!

Play games about the show! For example, 'I spy with my favourite eye something at the show that began with 'R' (use the sound rather than the letter name to really tune children into words). Your child could draw a picture about a favourite thing at the show for nanna or pop but describe the object/ event before giving the picture to them. Really focus in on descriptive language! Was the ride terrifying, exhilarating or disappointing (move away from tier one words such as good, scary or big)? Were the curly fries salty, delicious or oily and soggy (rather than tier one words like yummy, yucky or good)? How did they feel when they got a show bag – 'jumping out of their skin' (so to speak- discuss figurative language and what it means) or were they ecstatic (rather than tier one words such as excited and happy)? Building your child's vocabulary in this way is the single biggest gift you can give your child's education! Descriptive language has been shown by research over decades to be where teachers can make the biggest difference in a child's English skills in formal schooling! Imagine the huge difference it could make if parents are also discussing words and language with their children in authentic and daily situations! A few wonderful moments a day! A word bank for your child that will last a lifetime!!! WOW (the wonder of words) – **Think! Act! Reflect!** – Happy talking families!!!