



Porty's Power of Positive Thinking

A fortnightly communication between home and the school community

PRINCIPAL: Mrs Julianne Emmert

Edition #6 - 20th March 2015

VALUE : *Every child matters every day!*

Port Curtis Road State School acknowledges the traditional Dharumbal people on whose land it stands.

Our School Rules and Acceptable Behaviour

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be Respectful**

**Respect for Ourselves
Respect for Others
Respect for Learning**



WELCOME to Porty's Power of Positive Thinking, Edition #6

Improving Reading, Comprehension and Writing

At least one in five children with ASD has a significant problem with reading. Reading is required in all school subjects from Maths to Science. It is important to address the reading issues as soon as possible, so it does not affect their academic ability and self-esteem. We would encourage you to work towards literacy for all children, verbal or non-verbal. The ability to read is an essential skill that spans a child's school-age years and beyond.

There are two parts to reading:

1. word recognition; and
2. language comprehension skills.

We need to address both parts for a reading programme to be successful.

Reading issues can be hyperlexia where they can de-code text but comprehension doesn't match. Often these children have also masked their reading difficulties by acquiring knowledge on a special interest and having proficiency at reading on specific topics. However, they do not transfer the reading skills beyond their interests which is the challenge in school and in accessing the curriculum.

Unfortunately, conventional remedial reading programmes have not been as effective as with typical children. For ASD children reading is often factual memorisation of letters and words, but they don't have strategies to put the sounds together to know the word. They have difficulty predicting text and reading for meaning/comprehension as they are just decoding each word individually.

As the majority of students with ASD are visual learners, they generally respond to visual approaches to learning new words or a "whole word" approach. It is helpful to put words on flash cards or little folders attached by staple or metal ring and they can flick through the words. Make sure you change the order of words to ensure they don't learn by rote. Phonetic based approaches can be great for teaching spelling – but be aware that some children who read using this approach get stuck sounding words out and can't put the sounds back together.

Acknowledgements

Learning Place

Teacher Aides Supporting Students with Disabilities.

Sue Larkey: International Author, Autism Spectrum Specialist, Teacher

Sue Larkey is unashamedly passionate about her mission - to inspire parents and educators and teach them how to Make it a Success.

The Umbrella Network

"families supporting families"

LOVE our kids
EMPOWER ourselves
INSPIRE our community

Amanda Hartmann,

Inclusive Learning Consultant Speech Pathologist), Spectronics

Mr John Fleming Principal

advocates a dramatic shift in the way primary school children are taught using the John Fleming Explicit Teaching Model

12 Key Strategies to Encourage Reading

1. Make reading a routine and try reading for only short periods of time.
2. Read stories that includes the student's special interests to motivate reading and comprehension.
3. Let the child read one book of interest to them and one you choose.
4. Make photo books about their own experiences to encourage reading. Digital cameras make this very easy. You can use the same photos over and over and create a whole range of books.
5. Make connections between the book and student's special interest/experiences.
6. Find other books which may be related to the same topic.
7. If the student has difficulty with questions start a sentence "The boy is...." rather than "What is the boy doing?"
8. If the student enjoys drawing, get the child to draw pictures about the text they have read. Use cut and paste activities, e.g. cut up the sentences and have the student match the words to pictographs or cut up the sentence and put back together.
9. For children with visual perception difficulty it is important to teach the child to point to the word so they keep track of where they are up to.
10. Use the Time Timer or digital timers to establish how long they are reading. If it is found reading drags sometimes rather than read a whole book aim for a set amount of time reading.
11. Always include the written word on all visuals.
12. Start with teaching the literacy in the child's environment e.g. high profile logos (McDonalds, Apple). Begin with basic matching activities and build up to matching the word to symbol.

Comprehension and Writing—Next edition.

www.suelarkey.com



Did you know?

“Reading is so much more than just letters and words on a page. Reading is communication.

Reading is imagination. Reading is participation”



Resources

Sue Larkey
Education Events PTY Limited
Telephone: 0433 660 379
Fax: 1300 656 408
Email: dearne@suelarkey.com

Raelene Ensby
Parent Connect Facilitator-Central Qld
Umbrella Network Coordinator
254 Eldon Street,
Rockhampton, QLD 4701
Phone: 07 49286 550
Web-site: www.theumbrellanetwork.org

Amanda Hartmann, Speech Pathologist, Spectronics.
www.spectronics.com.au

Department of Education and Training
<http://education.qld.gov.au>

Sue-Ellen Kusher-Mindworks Consultant
www.mindworksteam.com.au/sue-ellen-kusher

Bulling No Way!
<http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/national-day/index.html>

National Centre Against Bullying
www.bullying.org

THE KIDS' BOOKCLUB

A good kid's book is a thing of magic. It can spark a child's creativity and imagination, transport them to far-off places full of adventure and excitement, all the while helping them make sense of their own world.

Childhood Literacy

While many children in Australia don't start reading until they start school, the foundations for literacy are developed much earlier. Knowing how to hold a book, recognising shapes, and being able to associate sounds with the symbols we know as letters are vital skills to learn before formal education begins. These basic building blocks are simple indicators of understanding language and communication. They don't just inform children's ability to read and write, but also their ability to learn, think, and speak. Children that miss out on these basic skills will struggle in school to learn and progress with their peers. Almost 90% of children that start school without basic literacy skills never catch up. The good news is that something as simple as regularly reading to a child from an early age can dramatically improve their literacy skills, and their chances to succeed beyond school.

That's why we've created the Kids' Book Club. Not only can it provide your child with a quality, age-appropriate book each month, it also helps provide books to families that might otherwise not be able to afford them through United Way Australia's literacy programs. Read more about United Way Australia and our work. View some wonderful tips for reading with babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers here.

Phone:
1300 780 345

Address:
United Way Australia
c/o Rodgers Reidy, 230 Clarence St,
Sydney NSW 2000



Email:
info@unitedway.com.au

<http://www.unitedway.com.au/>

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- Gross and Fine Motor skill development
- Visual Perceptual skill development
- Auditory and Visual Working Memory skill development
- Literacy development using the subcategory Wind/Spezz/Read Program
- Handwriting, spelling and expressive writing intervention
- Prescription of Therapy Equipment

Make an appointment with our Occupational Therapists:
Sue Morrison 800chly | Kate Lindstrom 800chly | Nisaba Corbero 800chly

Therapy Works For Kids
Edwards Chambers
Suite 12, 174 Quay Street
PO Box 552
Rockhampton QLD 4700
T: 07 4922 0376
F: 07 4922 0418
www.therapyworks4kids.com.au
www.write2spell.com

Therapy Works for Kids currently has NO WAITING LIST and parents DO NOT REQUIRE A REFERRAL if they are interested in having their child assessed by an Occupational Therapist.

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Suite 12, 174 Quay Street
PO Box 552
Rockhampton Qld 4700
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Fax: (07) 4922 0418
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OSchools App
<http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/qschools-app.html>



Did you know that Bullying. No Way! has produced two free downloadable apps schools, parents and students. Download them today!

The Take a Stand Together app for Apple iOS and Android devices keeps tips and advice about bullying close to hand.

The Allen Adventure app Apple iOS and Android designed for children under 8 years. Allen is a visitor from another planet. He has just started at school and he is working



Publication available on the website www.portcurtss.eq.edu.au—Support and Resources—Parent Resources