

## Walker Learning Approach Fact Sheet

### Reporter and Photographer Roles - First Three Years of School

The Reporter and Photographer roles are very important integral part of the WLA pedagogy. These roles need to be engaging, intentional, fun and special for each child. The same tasks should not be regurgitated day after day with little regard for the learning intentions or the individual child.

This fact sheets provides information about how to intentionally determine the reporter and photographer roles and presents a variety of ideas for the roles.

Sometimes they can be teamed up to work together, or they can each have their own roles.

The key intentions of the reporter (and photographer) role during investigations for children across the first three years of school include:

- Facilitating children's social engagement and interactions with their peers (particularly with those who they may not normally associate with)
- To extend thinking and problem solving skills in relation to finding evidence and examples of specific areas of learning that are linked to current areas of curriculum being learned across the day
- To provide additional opportunities to extend and link tools and skills in literacy and numeracy as ways of reporting
- To include aspects of technology as a means for reporting and recording
- To personalise the role in order to scaffold and extend and build upon each child's skill and interests
- To provide opportunities for building self esteem and resilience

The key is to make the reporter (and photographer) role to be engaging, intentional, fun and special. Have a vest or lanyard or something special that helps them to step into the role and defines it as special.

The reporter and photographer role must be on a roster system that is visible for the teacher and class. The teacher reminds the child the day before that it is their turn the following day.

Photographers may use a flip top camera, a digital camera or an ipad with camera and video (this works a treat!!).

### **Creative Ideas for the Reporter and Photographer Roles**

Listed below is a range of some creative ideas from the WLA team and teachers implementing the WLA across Australia.

The key is to ensure that the role is personalised to each child's level of learning and year level.

- Weather Reporter: Checking temperatures outside and inside the learning environment and comparing with the weather predictions
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer Reporter: Walk around the learning space or play ground. What is safe, what isn't?
- Gardening Officer reporter: What state is the garden in?
- Detective/Spy Reporter: Can you check out what other children are working on without them noticing?
- The reporting finding some freebies (with teacher check) related to learning intentions being demonstrated
- Evidence of children working together and helping each other out
- Timed interval observations of 10 or 15 minute of a particular child working: what are they up to at each time?
- Compiling lists of ?????
- Completing a survey of what children are working on or any other survey
- Data collection of ???
- Finding all the objects around the room with 2 or 3D shapes
- Reporting occasionally to another group about the learning and ideas and investigations that occurred in another class
- Asking peers what they are working on and what they are learning?
- Interviewing children (using video clips) about what they are working on?
- Writing questions and scripts, filming it and making it a mini documentary of learning or interest
- Completing an inventory on supplies in the collage area, what stocks need replenishing in each investigation area.
- Asking students about their interests to feedback to group and teacher to assist with planning for next fortnightly cycle
- A team job for the reporter and photographer is to compile a weekly or two-weekly report (WLA Newsheet) using reports and photos from the previous reporters and photographers. This newsheet can go home to parents reporting on the learning and investigations.

**Check our WLA Facebook for further ideas that we continue to list – why don't you add your own ideas!**