

# So you are taking your child(ren) on a holiday

Your child(ren) is/are very lucky as he/she/they are about to go on one of the biggest learning experiences of their life. School consists of giving children experiences and allowing them to practise their reading, writing, speaking/listening and calculating around that experience. You can do exactly the same using the following as a guide. We are sure that once your child(ren) start(s) these activities you'll find many more that you can add.

## Reading

- Look at all the signs they see on the trip and get them to read them to you. Ask them why some signs have no words (ie so that the message gets across without language barriers)
- Pick up pamphlets along the trip and read about where they are going
- Encourage them to take a book or books with them to read on long flights or train trips
- Help them to read any "How to" pieces eg How to put on a breathing mask" in a plane
- Encourage your child(ren) to assist with map reading on the trip. Let them keep a record of the trip on a map.

## Writing

- Keep a journal/diary in which they must write every day
- Write a post card/letter to their class every 2/3 weeks
- Make a project about the trip. They can collect pamphlets photos and post cards to make it look better. Use the journal/diary to help polish (make better) their ideas so that others can read it
- Write about any of the interviews they have (see Speaking/Listening)
- Make a simple translation of common words in the language they speak where you are visiting so that they can teach it to the class when they return. eg Hello, goodbye, counting to ten.....
- Make a list of words you would like to use when you return and how they are spelt.
- Learn to spell the names of the places you visit
- Make up sentences to fit number plates eg. PDW819 Please Drink Water.

## Speaking/Listening

- Interview an uncle/aunt/cousin/grandparent about what it is like to live where they do
- Talk to your child about "things" on the trip
- Encourage the children to talk to other people on the trip about their lives

## Mathematics

- Talk about the numbers they see on the trip eg money, distances, measurements, .....
- Make a table that converts \$Aus to the currency of the country they are visiting. Also make one that converts it the other way
- Make a list of everyday items and what they cost before you go and find out the cost in the country they visit. Compare and get them to discuss why they might vary.
- Continually get them to work out how much further they have to travel
- Talk about time differences as they travel and why this happens.
- Make equations for number plates eg PDW 819 ..  $8 + 1 = 9$  or  $v81 = 9$

## Other Activities

- For variety buy some puzzle books to help your child(ren) to use the time on long trips productively.
- Look at the art/craft/music of the region and try to copy the style.
- Collect tapes of the music
- Sketch/draw monuments/scenery
- Make a photographic journal of the trip. (buy your child a cheap camera for the purpose). Instead of traditional snaps take photos from odd angles or distances
- Collect stamps, coins, newspaper banners from the country you visit.
- Try to find references to Australia in the media. How do other countries see us?

A school cannot hope to compete with the wonderful leaning adventure you are about to give your child(ren). Have a safe and happy holiday and we will be delighted to discuss how you went as a teacher and what your child(ren) has/have learned when you return.