**Book of the Year Awards 2010**

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards raise awareness of the role Speech Pathologists play in assisting people of all ages to develop their language and literacy skills.

**Best Books for Language Development:**

**Our Daft Dog Danny**

*Our Daft Dog Danny* by Pamela Allen

*In the winter, we love to visit Uncle Peter and his dog Millie at the beach. But the day we took our dog Danny with us, everything went wrong! Until Toby had a good idea...*

A series of minor disasters at the seaside threatens to spoil everyone’s fun. But with a little ingenuity and a lot of excitement, the much-loved but daft dog Danny makes visiting the beach enjoyable again...

Our Daft Dog Danny has a wonderful pace and natural flow. There are lots of opportunities for children to pause, think, reflect and predict – to really engage with the story. The language is strong and introduces children to a range of important literacy skills like questions, commands, different verb forms and tenses.

Pamela Allen makes effective use of alliteration and descriptive language, presenting characters and a story everyone can relate, all enhanced by the delightfully captivating and colourful illustrations.

(Penguin Group Australia)

**Isabella’s Garden**

*Isabella’s Garden* by Glenda Millard & Rebecca Cool

*This is the story of Isabella’s garden. And what happens when a small seed is planted…*

Isabella’s Garden tells the tale of growth and seasonal change, beginning and ending with ‘the seeds that slept in the soil all dark and deep’ and how they bloom and flourish and ultimately lead to new growth. Told with great warmth, this is a comforting story about the cycle of life in its many forms.

A wonderful way of arousing interest in the surrounding natural world, Isabella’s Garden has a deep rhythm and prose that encourages the young reader to become involved in, and engage with, the story. Imaginative imagery and useful grammatical structures including metaphoric and descriptive language, synonymous, rhyme and alliteration all assist language and literacy skills in children of this age.

Isabella’s Garden’s engaging sense of repetition and rhythm will appeal to children to read aloud time and again and is a thoroughly entertaining read!

(Walker Books Australia)

**Pearl Verses the World**

*Pearl Verses the World* by Sally Murphy, illus. by Heather Potter

*My class is made up of groups. I am in a group of one.*

A poignant story about finding your place, Pearl Verses the World follows a girl dealing with isolation at school and her grandma’s illness at home.

Sally Murphy has created an honest, engaging and accessible character in Pearl. Her emotions are portrayed precisely in free verse and addresses themes pertinent to children of this age – identity and inclusion, grief and loss, dementia and death. It encourages shared reading and the issues tackled in the story will resonate with readers as things they have faced in their own lives.

Pearl Verses the World provides an opportunity for parents, teachers and other carers to discuss emotional issues, extend understanding of social issues and increase vocabulary and expressive language skills – all contained in one outstanding book.

(Walker Books Australia)