

## WINNER – NATIONAL AWARD

**Embargoed: 2pm on Friday, November 1**

Raising Literacy Australia publishing house Little Book Press publication Let's Go Strolling, has taken out a top gong at the 2019 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year awards. The picture book, written by Katrina Germein and illustrated Danny Snell, won the best book in the Birth to 3 Years category.

The judges said Let's Go Strolling was “a beautiful book for parents to share with their babies and toddlers.

“The author’s choice of text is excellent for early language learners as it models simple, early expressive phrases, while allowing the parent to emphasise and elaborate on key words.”

“The rhyming is perfect. The pictures are bright and simple, yet highly engaging and readily identifiable by young children.”

Let's Go Strolling is a delightful story with simple rhythm, which centres around a family spending the day together.

Strolling to the park they say hello to a neighbour, marvel at the orange bus, wave to a rubbish truck and point to the ducks waddling by.

The story began as a poem in an anthology titled, It's Playtime. Originally titled, Strolling, Little Book Press noticed its popularity after some tweaks and edits the Let's Go Strolling manuscript was born.

“The story is a reflection of my own experiences of early motherhood when one of the things that helped me was packing the kids in the pram and heading for the park,” author Katrina Germein said.

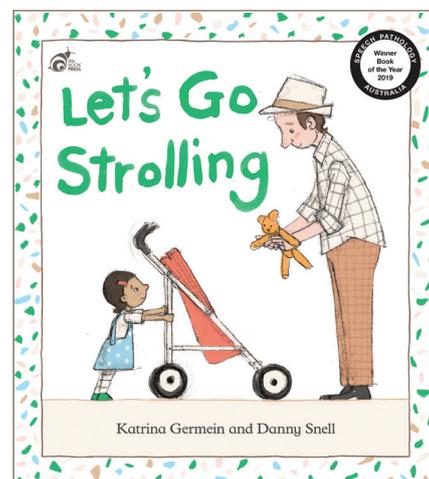
“A picture book manuscript is only a manuscript and it was a delight to watch Danny Snell’s delightful illustrations complete the story.

“Little Book Press then worked their magic to ensure everything was beautiful.”

“The final product is as gorgeous as a picture book should be, just what small children deserve, and I hope that little ones and their grown-ups find joy in its pages and are maybe inspired to step outside and go strolling together.”

Katrina said she was thrilled with the feedback she has received and to have her work acknowledged and recognised by Speech Pathology Australia.

“A strong foundation in early language and literacy is so important for all children – it allows them to confidently communicate, participate and learn with others,” she said.



"As an early years teacher, I'm frequently exposed to the difference a good speech pathologist can make to a child's development, and to their life."

"My friend sent a copy of the book to her eighty-year-old uncle interstate. He had recently become a grandfather and he said the book brought a tear to his eye because it captured the walks he and his grandson take together. That was beautiful feedback for me."

Illustrator, Danny Snell, said "Katrina's text gave him a lot of freedom to explore the characters and settings."

"I think this is why the main characters ended up being a father and daughter – as I was able to draw on my experience as a dad, taking my girls for walks when they were little," he said.

"I think the story is one that everyone can relate to. Every child enjoys going for a stroll and discovering the world along the way. And every parent has experienced the simple pleasure of taking their child for a walk."

"The text is uncluttered, with a rhythm that is perfect for a stroll. And I've tried to complement these qualities by keeping the layout simple and consistent, and giving the illustrations plenty of space."

The Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards are in their 16th year.

The respected awards promote quality Australian children's literature, the role of speech pathologists in language and literacy development, and a love of learning from books.

National President of Speech Pathology Australia, Tim Kittel, said "the awards look to identify the best children books available."

"People often ask why Speech Pathology Australia conducts a book of the year award," he said.

"It is because speech pathologists understand the link between language, speech and reading."

"Speech pathologists are in a unique position to recommend books to parents and teachers."

Little Book Press is the publishing house of Raising Literacy Australia.

They specialise in the production of high-quality books for babies and young children and works with Australian authors and illustrators to commission new titles for young readers.

For more information about **Little Book Press** visit [littlebookpress.com.au](http://littlebookpress.com.au) and **Raising Literacy Australia** at [raisingliteracy.org.au](http://raisingliteracy.org.au)

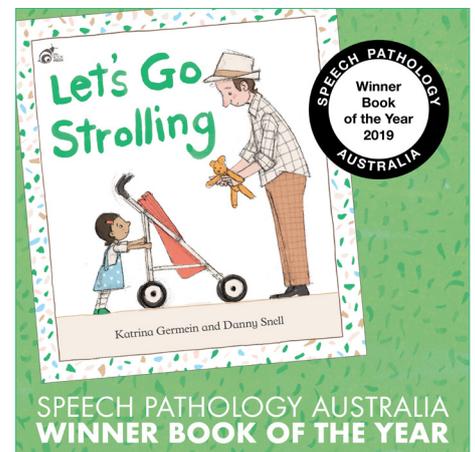
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