

# Eisteddfod Information and Tips

Every year students get the opportunity to participate in Eisteddfods around the region. This is great for their confidence. The main Eisteddfod is the Bathurst Eisteddfod which is held in August/September. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get up on stage for the first time and try it. Students can perform individually and/or in groups.

Other Eisteddfods offered throughout the year include Orange, Cowra, Forbes, Wellington, Gulgong, Dubbo and more around NSW.



Performing at Eisteddfods is not compulsory, but students are encouraged to take part as there are many benefits including speaking in front of an audience, and students can gain confidence and develop their skills.



It's all about having fun. The students enjoy this exciting environment and interacting with each other. They feel a sense of accomplishment being up on stage. If you have any questions regarding Eisteddfods, please don't hesitate to contact us. Email [kristie@encoredrama.com.au](mailto:kristie@encoredrama.com.au)

**Good luck, from the teachers at Encore Speech & Drama Studio**

  
**GOOD  
LUCK  
&  
HAVE  
FUN**

## Practice and preparation

We always look forward to seeing our students perform on stage. Preparation is the key –it can make you feel more confident and less anxious on the day.

- **Practice walking 'on stage'** for your performance. Walk to the middle, centre, and front. Pause and count 1-2 in your head before you start the title of your poem. This gives you time to settle yourself, take a breath and relax.  
This shows confidence and control to the audience.
- Remember to **practice all the 'tips for the stage'** at home as it can really help you to look professional on stage and make your performance great.
- **Entries and program** - Encore teachers organise entries for you for most Eisteddfods, and a program will be distributed about one month prior to the Eisteddfod.
- **Copies of pieces to hand in** – you need to prepare these and take them to the registration table on arrival. The piece should only have the Competitor Number and Section
- Name at the top. NO STUDENT NAMES PLEASE. **Encore provides copies for new students who are only in a small number of events and will give these out prior to the Eisteddfod.** However, some parents prefer to type their own child's work up if performing in numerous events and eisteddfods. It is the parents' responsibility to register at the desk and hand these in on arrival at the event.
- **Readings** – These can be typed and placed into the book to read from (in larger font) or on an A5 piece of cardboard to hold on stage and read from or laminated.
- **Dress for Eisteddfod** - unless advised to wear a costume, please ensure you wear smart dress. No sports joggers. Please look presentable on stage – you are performing and representing Encore so smart dress is appreciated.
- **If a student must pull out of an event** That's OK, however, you forfeit the entry fee. Please notify your teacher or the eisteddfod as soon as possible.
- **Arrival time** - Please ensure you arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the section commencing. This gives you time to hand in your copies and get settled and ready to perform.



- **Mimes** - If you are performing in a mime, please wear plain **ALL BLACK CLOTHING** with no writing on it. No shoes for the mime. Girls, please ensure your hair is tied back off your face or in a ponytail. This is very important for the mime sections.
- **Character Sketch/Monologue/Duologue/Scene** – If you are in a character sketch or monologue this is in costume. So please organise a costume for these sections. Talk to your teacher if you are unsure.
- **Nursery Rhyme** - All nursery rhyme sections are **IN COSTUME**, so please organise a simple costume for the nursery rhyme if entered in this section. Students have lots of fun on stage with this section and it makes them feel in character.



## Tips for the stage



- Walk to the middle of the stage. There is usually a mark for students to stand on. Pause and count 1-2 in your head before you start the title of your poem. This gives you time to settle yourself, take a breath and relax. This shows confidence and control to the audience.
- Say your title. Count 1-2 in your head, then say the author. Count 1-2 and then start your poem.
- **TAKE YOUR TIME.** The biggest problem children have on stage with nerves is that they rush. It is very important they take their time and speak slowly.
- Pause at every full stop
- Pause 1-2-3 between each verse of your poem
- **USE LOTS OF FACIAL** expressions – don't forget to use your face and show the emotion in your poem
- End all your words and ensure all words are nice and strong, especially at the ends of sentences.
- Make your last line strong and clear. Don't rush that last line.
- Finish your poem and bow then walk-off
- Don't fidget with your hands and try not to fiddle with your clothes. Keep your hands by your side unless doing actions.
- Natural gestures are permitted but please do not add in any extra actions or gestures too many can really hinder your performance. Please only practise the actions we have worked on in class. Make these big and exaggerated.
- **ENJOY YOUR PERFORMANCE** and show us you are **HAVING FUN** on stage too.



- Show us you can understand your performance.
- Be nice and loud (but be careful not to scream or yell – there is a difference).
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, SMILE AND HAVE FUN!

## Things to remember while students are performing



- Please remember to **keep still and quiet** during other students' performances. It is important that there is no movement during performances as this can really distract the children. Please remain seated while all other competitors are on stage.
- Please ensure that there is **NO COACHING, NO PROMPTING** of any kind or any coaxing towards the children to help them on stage. The only person allowed to assist the student is the adjudicator. Hand signalling to be louder or slower is also not **PERMITTED** by any parent, teacher, or family member. Please remember this.
- **Audience etiquette** - no prompting or coaching from audience members, parents or teachers is allowed. This is very important as it ensures the event is kept fair.
- **No approaching** the adjudicator at any time.
- **Late changes** - students cannot change sections or take place of another student in the program.
- **Competition** - prior to each section, the students will be called to sit up in the front ready in number order or backstage depending on the Eisteddfod. They can then go and sit back with their parents after they perform in each section.
- **Prizes** - prizes will be awarded at the completion of each section. Please ensure you wait for the adjudication for each section.
- Remember that the winners are chosen based on the **opinion of one judge on the day** – at a different Eisteddfod on a different day the result could be different.
- **Collecting reports** - at each Eisteddfod there will be an area or desk where you can collect a written report for the student's performance (even if they don't win a prize). Please ensure you collect these after each section. This provides great feedback for from the adjudicator on where they did well and what areas they may need to work on.

