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Perky kids wow audience at speaking contest

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Sunnyvale, Calif.

WHERE can you meet a perky four-year-old explaining her role as the CEO of her own company? Or come across a clear exposition by a three-year-old on her favorite book and how that has taught her to share with friends? Such a bunch of precocious kids wowed the audience and judges alike in Sunnyvale at the annual Win With Words 2009 Public Speaking Competition on May 30, produced and conceptualized by Genius Kids Inc, Fremont.

Children between the ages of 3 and 12 years participated in the event held at the Sunnyvale Temple auditorium. The contest was tough as speaker after speaker turned out to be not only cute but well-prepared and professional in presentation.

"At Genius Kids we believe in catching kids young. Great minds start little and by providing a platform for the young generation to speak their minds, we create leaders of tomorrow," said Rennu Dhillon, founder of Ge-

Clockwise from top: The winners in the various categories; Rachana Aithal; and J. Siri Basavraj on why she wants to be a peacock



nius Kids. This year, the event was open to all community members and not just students of Genius Kids. The competition is an opportunity to give children the chance to research interesting topics and talk about them, developing leadership, fostering self-confidence and personal growth.

For the contest, children selected topics from a list of recommended subjects and had one to three minutes to present their information. The judging panel included Vidya Pradhan, managing editor of *India Currents* and co-founder and editor for *Water No Ice*, an online magazine, Shambhu 'Sam' Rao, journalist for the *Indian Express North America* publication and founder of YouthUtsavFest and *Indian-American.Org*, and Kavita Arora, screen writer, anchor and producer of *Sitaarre TV*, a South Asian entertainment television show in the Bay Area.

The competition was divided into various age categories. Rachana Aithal, who dressed up as a successful CEO with a formal suit, black-rimmed glasses and laptop, gave a presentation on her company *genie.com*, talking about her career goals and appealing to the

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