



# Talking Matters



Newsletter April 2015

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)



## Happy Easter from Talking Matters



It's been a busy few months so far in 2015. Our new occupational therapists have settled in and there is now no waiting time for OT appointments. Our new psychologist Katie Walker has also been busy settling in and meeting families.

We have an exciting plan for 2015 with group programs and training sessions planned for throughout the year. We have also had a number of requests from schools and child care centres for the team to provide training to their staff in order to better support children in their centres.

The management team have been doing planning sessions to look at how we can provide the best possible service to the families we work with. Carla has also attended a workshop to see how we can best work alongside the NDIA to support families and children.



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The team are again looking forward to celebrating Autism Awareness Month by showing off their baking skills. Last year we raised around \$400 to support the Autism Helpline so look out for some goodies when you are in the office.

With Easter and the school holidays coming up the team are looking forward to some time with families and friends. Deb is taking the chance to do some extra training by attending a workshop on supporting children with Autism.

We hope all our families and colleagues have a safe, happy and relaxing Easter and school Holidays.

And finally a big congratulations to Paul who was the winner of our colouring competition. He did a great job of colouring and got a big basket of goodies!



## Looking for things to do in the school holidays?

**Did you know we have a whole book of holiday activities for kids for free?** Here are some ideas from our school holiday activity book. You can download the book from our website to find out more about the activities and how to make fun about learning too!

### Outside ideas for sunny days:

**Bubbles:** Endless cheap fun for everyone!

**Sand and water play:** A great calming activity for even the busiest little people

**Obstacle course:** A great way to develop motor skills, listening and concepts all at once.



**Treasure Hunts:** More listening and concepts but with pirate hats, how cool is that!

**Gardening:** Perfect fun for the lovely autumn weather

### Inside ideas for rainy days:

**Cooking:** Fine motor and language concepts with food at the end, what could be better?

**Puppets:** Make your own for motor skills, then play for language and social skills.

**Books:** Always do books, everyday, but try some new ones, maybe at the library for the holidays!

**Painting:** Fine motor skills, concepts and creativity!

**Collage:** Cut, tear and glue all those scraps and bits and pieces for free and recycled fun.

**Dress ups:** Be whatever you want to be for free!

**Shops:** Learn social skills, language, literacy, maths

**Play dough:** Make your own gooey fun for motor skills, concepts and pretending.

### Here is the book!

[http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/downloads/cat\\_view/20-activity-packs](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/downloads/cat_view/20-activity-packs)

## Looking for help to develop social skills?

We have two group programs starting in term two!

### Play skills for preschool children.

This group is for kids who are beginning to develop communication skills and are showing an interest in other children but need help with sharing information and toys, taking turns and developing social play.

Groups of four children and their parents will run on Wednesday Mornings. For details see our website or speak to your TM therapist.

### What's the Buzz Social Skills Group.

We are running the junior version of What's the Buzz for children aged 5 to 8 years on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5pm. This program develops social skills such as conversation, making friends, understanding nonverbal cues and managing and expressing emotions. For details speak to your TM therapist or visit:

<http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/services/speech-assistant-program-talking-matters-speech-pathology-elizabeth-downs-8255-7137>

To arrange a booking call 82557137



## Want to support children with ASD or literacy challenges.

We have lots of workshops planned for the year and have had great feedback from the ones we have done so far. All workshops are on Wednesdays from 4.30 to 6.30 at the Talking Matters Office

### Workshops coming up include:

- ASD in preschool May 20th
- ASD in the classroom June 17th
- OT in the classroom Nov 4th

### We also have a number of literacy workshops developed by Diana Rigg from PLD. These include:

- Early Literacy for Reception
- Literacy for year one
- Supporting delayed literacy for years one to three
- Pre-literacy skills for Preschool
- Oral language for Junior Primary



### For details and booking forms see

<http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/services/professional-development-talking-matters-speech-pathology-elizabeth-downs-8255-7137>

## Helping your children reach their potential

### Are your team wanting to better support the children with special needs?

We have a range of training packages suitable for teachers, SSOs, preschool and child care workers and we can present these to your whole team at your centre at a time that suits you. This offers both convenience and cost saving for larger groups.

### To find out more visit

[http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/images/Professional\\_development\\_sessions\\_pamphlet\\_1214.pdf](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/images/Professional_development_sessions_pamphlet_1214.pdf)

### Talking Matters offers:

- Speech pathology, occupational therapy & psychology
- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Range of programs to suit families budgets
- Saturday sessions for busy families
- Autism diagnosis and therapy
- Fun activities to support home practice
- School & home visits available
- Practical professional training sessions with useful resources

### Looking for information or free resources ?

Our website has information about all kinds of topics related to kids with special needs including:

- Information and activities to download
- Checklists to check your child's development
- Information about services and funding options
- Links to other useful sites
- Links to our Facebook, twitter, Pinterest pages and our blog

# Talking Matters

Ph. 8255 7137

238 Midway Road

Elizabeth Downs

Phone: 8255 7137

Fax: 8219 0128

E-mail: [office@talkingmatters.com.au](mailto:office@talkingmatters.com.au)

Website: [www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

