



Talking Matters

Newsletter August 2012

www.talkingmatters.com.au

What's been happening lately?

As usual we have been very busy. The students Emma and Kristen have settled in well and are really enjoying working with our families and the team here. I've personally enjoyed watching the delight on the children's faces at having a new person to impress with their brilliance! We would like to thank all of the families who have been so fantastic in welcoming the students and for allowing us to video sessions with their children. We find it a great learning tool to reflect on different aspects of the session as we plan the next one.

We have also been making the most of the range of professional development opportunities that we have had and have on the calendar for the next few months. Recently Sasha flew interstate and attended a 2 day specialized training in the Lidcombe program which is an effective program for treating stuttering in children. She returned with lots of great ideas and even more passion for the area. We always like to share the information with the team and Sasha ran an informative session for the rest of the team in our weekly onsite training session.

Joanne attended a full day workshop on the importance of play and developing play skills that she will share with the rest of the team in the near future also. Quite a few of us are attending Sue Larkey's upcoming workshop and are looking forward to that. We are also now booked for our whole team to complete the "What's the Buzz" workshop with Mark Le Messurier in the upcoming school holidays. The What's the Buzz program is a social skills program that we hope we will be able to add to our program here.

We also have some great new service options for parents starting in term 4 which we have detailed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Finally, it is with sadness that we learned that our cheerful receptionist Mandy will be leaving us at the end of the month. She and her family are heading back to Perth so our loss is their gain.



What is a Psychologist and what do they do?

Angela Coppi, psychologist is going to provide some services from our office on Mondays from term 4 so we thought an overview of what a psychologist does might be helpful for families. Child psychologists are specialists in learning, relationships and behaviour and can help families and children in a variety of ways to develop skills, function better and prevent ongoing problems.

Psychologists can help by:

- Assessing a child's overall development and learning ability
- Helping parents understand and learn strategies for managing their child's behaviour
- Assessing and developing social skills, anxiety and stress management
- Supporting families in managing relationship issues
- Providing counselling for children and parents
- Helping families identify, clarify and manage specific problems
- Diagnosing certain conditions such as dyslexia, specific learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, ASD, ADHD and others.



These are just a few areas in which a psychologist may be able to assist you as you raise your family. For more information about how to find a psychologist and how they work you can refer to the recent blog about child psychologists at this address <http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/child-psychologists/>

New service options for families

From term 4 2012 there will be some additional options for services for families:

Joint Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessments

From the first week of term 4 Angela Coppi (psychologist) and Joanne Brenecki (speech pathologist) will be conducting joint autism/ Asperger's assessments on Mondays here at the Elizabeth East offices. For children to be registered with Autism SA the process can become a long one as families wait to see 2 different professionals in different locations. These assessments will enable families to come in and have the assessment and see both professionals needed to complete the diagnosis on the one day. Angela and Joanne will be work together to ensure families are receiving a professional service that is efficient and family friendly. For more information please refer to our website or phone the office.

Psychological services

Angela Coppi, a registered psychologist will be providing services from our offices on Mondays. She has many years of experience within educational settings and experience in private practice. She will provide autism assessments in the morning and support families in the afternoon. Angela is available to assist families where there are challenges around anxiety, behaviour and social or emotional difficulties. Angela is now a provider on the FaHCSIA early intervention panel, is registered with Medicare and her services may be covered under private health insurance (subject to cover levels).

Saturday morning speech pathology

Keira's coming back to work part-time! From term 4 we also welcome back Keira who has been on leave with her new baby Harper. Keira will return and offer sessions on a Saturday morning from the offices. We are excited to have her coming back and opening up a new option for busy families to be able to bring their children to speech therapy on Saturday mornings.



Helping your children reach their potential

Keep up to date with recent events on our facebook page.

<http://www.facebook.com/talkingmatters>

Free information and activities in the resources section of the website. Follow the links from our homepage

www.talkingmatters.com.au

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Friendly and professional staff
- Co-located occupational therapists
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Providing families as much help as they want
- Medicare registered providers
- Betterstart and Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Providers

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