



Talking Matters

Newsletter December 2010

www.talkingmatters.com.au



Talking Matters News



There is a lot to celebrate at Talking Matters at the moment. Keira celebrated her engagement to Matt on Saturday the 20th November with a party at her home. See our Face book site for more pictures. Keira and Matt will marry in Bali in July.



Carla has completed her mentoring with the Northern Business Enterprise Centre and we would like to thank her mentor Gordon for all the support he has given to Talking Matters. Carla has put in a lot of time and effort and learnt an enormous amount while working with Gordon. Our clients and the other workers at Talking Matters will continue to benefit from her efforts into the future.

Keira and Lauren have attended a training session on working with primary school aged students with stuttering difficulties, which will assist them in working with this group of clients.

We are currently making plans for the new year, including running professional development sessions for teachers, school assistants and child care workers on a range of topics, in a new, bigger and more comfortable venue.

We are also planning groups for developing literacy skills for junior primary students and language, literacy and social skills groups for children with ASD.



We have two new speech pathologists starting in 2011, Jess Rossiter and Lauren Webber.



Both Jess and Lauren have a Degree in Psychology and a Masters in Speech Pathology. They will be providing a mixture of school and office based therapy services. They have been spending some time getting to know the other people at Talking Matters as well as meeting some clients and school staff before beginning in January. We look forward to their skills and enthusiasm adding to our team.

The Talking Matters office will close for Christmas on 22nd Dec and reopen on 10th of January to give workers a chance to relax with their families.

Now is a good time to book an assessment if you are concerned about your child's speech, language or literacy skills or if you are an existing or past client that would like an update.

Talking Matters Team

Have you looked at Talking Matters Plus yet?

Talking Matters Plus is a new section on our website with loads of information and activities on speech, language, literacy and other information for families, educators and health professionals. New information is added regularly and can be downloaded and printed for free. If you feel this information is useful why not share it with family and friends or your child's teacher or child care worker. Just go to our website www.talkingmatters.com.au and click the "plus" tab on the right.

We are also gradually building our face book, twitter and blog sites to include more information for families and others who use our service, so check in and see what is new.



Top 10 things to do to help your child's language

1. **Talk together every day.** Talk to your child whenever you can, as you go about daily activities like cooking, bathing, dressing, eating, travelling to kindy or school, getting ready for bed. Make a special talking time each day where you just focus on talking with your child for a few uninterrupted minutes.
2. **Get down to your child's level.** Ensure they can see your face when you are talking to them. This helps them focus, lets them see and hear your words better and encourages them to copy you.
3. **Follow your child's lead when you talk.** Watch what they look at, touch, hear and reach for and talk with them about these things.
4. **Talk about what you are doing and 'think out loud'.** Talk in simple words about what you are doing as you do your daily activities to develop vocabulary. Think out loud as you make decisions "I need to cut this, I will look for something sharp, a pair of scissors would be good" to develop problems solving skills.
5. **Be positive.** Use lots of encouragement and tell your child what they have done well. "I like the way you used your words to ask for that". "The red colour in that picture looks great".
6. **Model new words.** Tell your child the names of things they have not seen before. Teach them new action and describing words as well.
7. **Recast your child's errors.** If your child makes a mistake when talking repeat the sentence, fixing the mistake to show them the right way. Use a positive tone and repeat it a few times but keep it natural. "I runned" "yes you ran, you ran very fast, you ran right to mummy".
8. **Use lots of repetition.** Repeat new ideas, words and concepts over and over. Repeat stories and songs too.
9. **Read lots of books together.** Reading to your child is one of the best things you can do to help them learn. Make it a part of your day every day.
10. **Embrace new experiences.** Try new places, games, songs, books and activities with your child. Do something special and different every chance you can as this opens up new words, ideas and concepts to talk about.



Read more in the TM plus section of our website under "language skills"

Helping your children reach their potential

Download our school holiday ideas

Go to the front page of our website to download a free school holiday activity book with lots of activities that are both fun and help your children learn communication and literacy skills.



Programs coming in 2011:

- Language and social skills groups
- Ready to read literacy groups
- Professional development sessions for teachers, SSO's and child care workers

See website for details

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Range of programs to suit families budgets
- Specialised reading instruction
- Coordinated speech, psychology and OT services
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Continuity from toddlerhood through schooling
- Practical professional training sessions with useful resources

Talking Matters

Ph 8255 7137

PO Box 3027
53 Midway Rd
Elizabeth East

Phone: 8255 7137
Fax: 8219 0128
E-mail: office@talkingmatters.com.au
Website: www.talkingmatters.com.au

