



Talking Matters



Newsletter **Christmas** 2015

www.talkingmatters.com.au



What's happening at Talking Matters?



It's been a busy time in the later half of this year and now it is almost Christmas.

We have just had our Christmas party for Talking Matters clients which was loads of fun with kids CrossFit activities, a police officer and police car, a bouncy castle, Christmas tattoos, a petting zoo, craft activities and of course Santa. Thanks to all the team, volunteers, families and children who made the day such as success.

Our colouring contest was won by two lucky children, Jaxon and Olivia who will have loads of things to do in the holidays when they open their prize packs.

We have lots of things planned for the new year, including a number of group programs for January, a speech pathology student clinic, expanded school services and new feeding service for fussy eaters from term 2.



We have seen a huge demands for services this year which has resulted in waiting times for many services. Over the last few weeks the management team have been working to select some new team members who will begin in the new year and this will result in a reduction in waiting times for services. We have been very pleased with the high standard of applicants for positions and look forward to the new team members starting in mid January.

We would like to thank all the families and colleagues that support our service and wish everyone has a safe and happy Christmas.

We look forward to an exciting year working with you in 2016!

Talking Matters team!



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Starting school in 2016?

Will your child be ready to start school next year? School is different to preschool and child care. There is more structure and there are more expectations.

Formal teaching of reading, writing and maths skills begins. There is more sitting still required, more pencil and paper work and more listening and following instructions.

Some children are ready for these changes while others find it harder. Some are reluctant to swap some of their time running, climbing and playing in the sandpit for more time spent on structured "work". **Children with special needs sometimes need extra help** to be ready for school.

Download our free **Starting School Activity Pack** from the front page of our website to find more things you can do to help your child begin school with confidence.



Here are some things you can do to help your child prepare for school:

1. Consider your child's posture.
2. Develop your child's listening skills.
3. Develop your child's speech and language skills.
4. Help your child learn about books.
5. Get your child ready to learn reading and writing.
6. Build your child's fine motor skills.
7. Develop your child's self care skills.
8. Develop your child's confidence.
9. Help your child learn to manage their emotions.
9. Provide a regular routine.
10. Seek help if you need it.



For tips on developing each of these areas visit:

<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/10-school-ready-tips/>

If your child needs help in any of these areas visit the Talking Matters website to see how we can help.

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

Tips for Christmas

Over December our blog has had a Christmas focus. If you missed out here are links to all the tips, activities and ideas.

Have an ASD friendly Christmas. Christmas can be stressful for children with ASD and their families. Find some tips to make things a little easier.
<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/asd-friendly-christmas/>



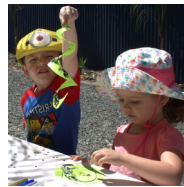
Give books for Christmas. Books are a simple, inexpensive gift that can have a lifetime of benefits for little people. Find out how to choose and use books for the little ones in your life.
<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/give-books-for-xmas/>



Top toys for toddlers. Still looking for some last minute gifts? Here are some ideas for inexpensive toys that are fun and educational.
<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/top-toddler-xmas-toys/>



10 uses for Christmas Lego. Many homes will be flooded with Lego this Christmas. Find out some fun ways you can use it and all the different kinds of skills Lego can be used to develop.
<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/10-uses-for-xmas-lego/>



Christmas activities. Looking for a way to keep the kids busy and entertained over the last few days before Christmas? Here are some fun and inexpensive Christmas themed activities and some links to great ideas on the internet. Enjoy!
<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/christmas-activities/>

Follow our blog for all kinds of information, tips, ideas and activities about kids, development, learning and special needs.

In January we will have info on holiday activities and back to school ideas. We will then have a different theme each month throughout the year.

At any time you can visit and browse through areas of interest. We have categories including speech, language, occupational therapy, social and emotional development, autism, dyslexia, literacy and more as well as age specific categories. **All put together by the Talking Matters team for you, then families we work with!**

Helping your children reach their potential

Have you seen our free downloads?

Our website has loads of kids activities and information for parents that can be downloaded and used for free.

Topics include:

Speech, listening, following instructions, concepts

Early language, barrier games, speech games

Literacy, school language

Fine and gross motor skills, sensory integration

Autism, social stories, visuals

And more.....

<http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/information/downloads>

Want information and 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
- Information about our team
- Links to other useful sites
- Links to our social media including Facebook, twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram
- Links to our weekly blog

Talking Matters offers:

- Speech pathology, occupational therapy, psychology
- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Saturday morning 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
- A range of resources to support therapy

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