



Talking Matters

Newsletter February 2012

www.talkingmatters.com.au

Looking forward to the new school year

Well the Talking Matters team are all back to work now and looking forward to another exciting year of working with our exceptional students and their supportive families.



With the new year come some exciting new developments. In October 2011 we welcomed Sasha Tomlinson to the team.

In January we welcomed Lauren Payne who will work 4 days a week with clients in our office and within schools.



Michelle Musolino also joined the team in January and will start with 2 days a week. Later in the year Michelle will pick up an extra day so she's working 3 days a week.

Michelle and Lauren were chosen from a field of applicants after a thorough selection process. We would like to say a special thank-you to the handful of mums who helped us out with the interview each candidate conducted and for providing feedback to us. Michelle and Lauren are going to be a wonderful asset to the Talking Matters team and we are thrilled our clients helped us choose them.

Late last year we also shared in Keira and her husband Matt's exciting news that they are to become parents! Keira's due date is early in June. She plans to work through term 1 in schools and will be organizing handover sessions with Lauren and Michelle ready for term 2. Keira will work with clients in the office for the first few weeks of term 2. She is already planning with parents to ensure all clients are well looked after in her absence. She hopes to be back to work with us in January 2013. We wish Keira and Matt all the very best for this exciting new stage of their life.

Freshening things up!

Over the Christmas holiday break we took the opportunity to freshen things up a bit around the office ready for a new year. We purchased some fun new resources, changed the toys and activities in the waiting area and made a bit more room at the reception desk to try and give clients a bit more space.

We also thought it was time to replace our blue curtains with some bright and cheerful images that reflect our vision for speech pathology services for your children. We also hope that our windows will help people who aren't familiar with what we do to start to understand that we do more than help children to say their sounds properly. Communication is such a vital part of our lives, as our window say, we communicate to relate to each other, to play, to achieve, to learn, to think and to enjoy. To really get the best out of life we need to be good communicators. We hope our clients like the windows as much as we do.

Also keep an eye out for our new website over the next few months. Work has begun on a new website to ensure we can continue to use it as a way to share information with everyone who is interested in speech and language development. Our current website has an informative weekly blog on an area of childhood development. We also provide regular updates and share information on facebook and in our 'Extras' section. www.talkingmatters.com.au



Don't wait to help children with speech and language needs!

This year the Talking Matters team are going to work hard to try and dispel an old and potentially harmful approach to concerns about speech and language difficulties. This is the “let’s wait and see” approach, which often results in more difficulties and anxiety than should have occurred. Here is a portion of a handout we will be trying to get in front of as many health professionals and educators as we can.

When children are delayed in their speech, language or learning or if parents are concerned about social or communication development, a “wait and see” approach is often taken. While this aims to avoid parents being unnecessarily concerned, it can result in a child missing out on vital early intervention.

A child developing 25% slower than his peers at 2 years of age will be six months behind and need to make 18 months progress in the next 12 months to “catch up”. Without assistance if this child continues to develop at this slower rate by four years he will be 12 months behind and need to make 24 months progress in the next 12 months in order to catch up to his peers and be ready for school. As children make rapid advances in speech, language and learning between three and five years this will be difficult and it is likely that the child will begin school at risk of developing difficulties with reading, writing, spelling and learning. By contrast **early support can help a child develop the necessary skills to lay the foundations for future learning** and parents can learn how to best support development at home.

While public services can offer this support to families there is often a lengthy waiting period which contributes to the delay in accessing vital early support and better long term outcomes.

If a parent or familiar adult has concerns about a child’s development the only responsible thing to do is to see a speech pathologist without delay. At Talking Matters we can offer **immediate bookings** for assessments and follow up therapy and have a **range of options to help make private therapy affordable** for families.



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 our ‘Extras’ section on the website. Follow the links from our homepage

www.talkingmatters.com.au

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Specialised reading instruction
- One stop Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Providing you as much help as you want
- Medicare registered providers
- Betterstart and Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Providers

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