



Talking Matters

Newsletter February 2013

www.talkingmatters.com.au

Choices for families

We are looking forward to a busy year in 2013 at Talking Matters as we welcome new team members.



Christine Weir joins our team to provide services to clients in the office as well as to St Brigid's and Our Lady of Hope schools. Christine is a mother of two teenagers and has an interest in autism spectrum.

Monique McCulloch also joins our team in the office as well as at Trinity College Gawler River, St Thomas More School and Catherine McAuley. Monique is also a mum and has an interest in special schools students.



Stacey Nelson brings some youthful energy and enthusiasm to our team. Stacey has recently completed her honours in speech pathology and will be seeing clients in the office as well as at Playford Primary, John Hartley School and St Mary Magdalene's.

A growing team means we can offer even more choices for families to support their children. As well as a growing range of school and preschool based services we now also offer Saturday morning sessions for busy parents. Our speech assistant program offers both after school and Saturday sessions and is a cost effective choice for parents on tight budgets. For more information on therapy options check our website. <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/services/>



The rest of the team are looking forward to a busy year too. Team members continually update their skills and we already have some training planned in the areas of managing children's behavior and supporting children with literacy difficulties.

As well as developing our speech pathologists skills we also feel it is important to help parents and other important people in children's lives to develop their skills to best support children with special needs.



We provide a range of information and resources for parents, teachers and carer's. You can get up to date information and the opportunity to share with other parents on our Facebook page which now has over 580 likes. We also have a twitter account with over 600 followers and a pinterest page loaded with great ideas, information and printable activities. Our blog covers a range of topics of interest to parents with new information every week.

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All these things help families help their kids to achieve their best. They can all be accessed from the front page of our website.

Our website also has a range of downloadable information sheets and printable activities on a range of topics. In the new year many new activities have been added. These are available free and updated regularly. Check them out at <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/downloads>

School, preschool or child care interested in a speech pathology service?

At Talking Matters we are always willing to consider new sites to receive our services. School and centre based services are offered at no charge to the centre and no extra charge to families. If you have a school or centre that would like to offer this convenient service to your families call the Talking Matters office on 82557137 to find out more.



Mild and Moderate difficulties?



Many public services tell parents that their child is not eligible to receive speech pathology support because they have only mild or moderate difficulties. This is because services are tightly stretched and so limited resources are allocated to those with the highest need. Parents however sometimes think that this means their child does not need support. They may think their child's skills are "good enough" or that it is OK to "wait and see" how they progress in school. Only 2% of children fall in the "severe" range of difficulties. This means that across 4 classes of approximately 25 children each, only about 2 children will receive specialised speech pathology support. We know however that many more children struggle with learning, literacy, social emotional development and behaviour, all of which are related to children's language skills. To find out why Talking Matters think kids with mild and moderate difficulties need support read more at <http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/mild-difficulties/>

Individual programs for every child!

Communication is a very individualized skill and every child is different. At Talking Matters we don't do "one size fits all". A detailed assessment allows a speech pathologist to determine what skills the child has, what they need to develop and what strategies are likely to be most effective in teaching those skills. Communication is a skill that has a major impact on a child's daily life and social interactions.

A program needs to take into account how the child communicates and functions in other settings. The people in a child's life that can support the child's communication development are also important. Programs need to be tailored to families too, and take into account the parents needs and concerns. We offer a personalised program, a range of therapy options and various funding options to meet family needs. Call 82557137 if you need to book an appointment for your child and we will be happy to help.



Helping your children reach their potential

Find out more about ASD!

We now have a range of books available to families to find out more about autism and Asperger's as well as children's books to help parents discuss issues such as their child's diagnosis and social, emotional and behaviour issues with children. Come into the office to have a look. Books may be available under FAHCSIA funding for eligible families.



Have you checked our website lately?

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 blog

Talking Matters offers:

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Range of programs to suit families budgets
- Individualised reading instruction
- Saturday morning sessions for busy families
- Autism diagnosis and therapy
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Continuity from toddlerhood through schooling
- Practical professional training sessions with useful resources

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