



# Talking Matters

Newsletter July 2011

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

## Holidays, wedding, award and a baby!

Well it's been a very exciting month or two and finally we have everyone back on deck ready for the new school term.

First we had Keira in Bali for two weeks while she married Matt and changed from Miss Campbell to Mrs Stone. There are photos on our facebook page for those that love to look at great wedding snaps.



No sooner was Keira back and Jess was off to Asia for 2 weeks, followed by a week touring around Australia with a friend. Saara spent 3 weeks travelling up to the Gold Coast to enjoy some sunshine and Jodie got almost a week off work, but continued to help run things from home. We just can't live without her it seems. Raelene did a great job with helping out on the front desk while the girls were away. All of the girls seem to be ready for another busy term now.

On Saturday night Joanne, Carla, Joanna, Jodie, Keira and partners enjoyed the Messenger Local Business Awards Gala night held at the Hilton to celebrate Talking Matters reaching the finals for the awards. There are a few photos of this evening on our facebook page also. The whole team would like to thank all of our clients who not only give us the privilege of working with their children, but who also voted for us in the awards. Thanks.



Natalie Hooper, occupational therapist also has had her baby, a beautiful little girl named Olivia. Both Olivia and Natalie looked great on Friday when Natalie dropped in to introduce us.



## Better Start Program Begins

From the 1st of July 2011 the Australian Government has put in place a new funding initiative for early intervention services for children with specific disabilities. Children with Cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome and moderate or greater vision or hearing impairments will have access to funding for therapy by recognised providers. We are excited that Talking Matters and members of the consortium have been included on the Better Start Early Intervention Service Provider Panel and will therefore be able to provide services to children under this package.

From July 1 2011, children who are aged under six years and have been diagnosed with one of the listed disabilities can be registered to access early intervention funding of up to \$12,000 (up to a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year). Funding can be used for speech pathology, audiology, occupational therapy and psychology through providers on our consortium.

Families will have until their child's seventh birthday to use the funding, but must be registered before their child's sixth birthday. The FaHCSIA website provides further information about this funding and how to register. Parents can also learn more about this program and whether their child may be eligible by looking at the Talking Matters website page at [http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/Better\\_Start](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/Better_Start) We have links to the FaHCSIA page from our website to help you locate the information. Eligible families will first need to be registered for the program through **Carers Australia RIS**. You can contact them on **1800 242 636**



# Top 10 things to help your child's literacy

- 1. Read, Read, Read!** Make a habit of reading to your child every day. Reading to your child is the one thing that has the biggest impact on your child's ability to learn to read.
- 2. Re-read favourites.** Mem Fox suggests sharing three books with your child each day; a new one, one you have read before and an old favourite. Children learn through repetition.
- 3. Explore a range of texts.** Stories are great but you should also explore magazines, letters, post-cards, menus, newspapers, newsletters, advertisements, signs, catalogues, notes, shopping lists, birthday and Christmas cards, recipes, diaries, instructions, maps, even bills.
- 4. Talk, talk, talk!** Reading and writing are language skills so strong language skills mean it is easier to develop literacy. Talk to your child as much as you can in your daily activities together. Vocabulary (the number of words your child understands and uses) is particularly important.
- 5. Talk about books.** Help your child learn about how books work. Try making your own books. Help your child to feel confident around books.
- 6. Talk about sounds.** Talk about the sounds in words. Clap out syllables and count them, talk about long words and short words. Read rhyming stories and talk about how rhyming words sound the same. Play I spy.
- 7. Talk about words and letters.** Look at words everywhere and talk about them. Talk about the sounds that letters make. Look at alphabet books and help your child to understand the name and the sound of the letter such as "B" is called "bee" and it makes a "buh" sound.
- 8. Talk about stories.** Talk about how stories have a beginning and ending and how people in stories often have a problem to solve. Make up your own stories.
- 9. Talk about what you read.** When you read together, talk to your child about what you read to develop their comprehension. Talk about what is happening, what you think about the characters, how they are feeling and what they may think.
- 10. Make reading and writing a part of your family life.** Let your child see you read and write in lots of different ways. Make sure your child has lots of chances through the day to use books and writing materials. Join your local library and visit as a family. Show interest and pleasure in your child's attempts to read and write and put their writing and drawings on display.



For a free activity packed booklet about getting ready for school visit our website on [www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au) and look for the link on the front page.

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## Helping your children reach their potential

- Individualised assessment , therapy and programs
- Giving families choices about what they need
- Specialised reading instruction
- Coordinated speech, psychology and OT services
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Regular and ongoing assistance. We 'll look after you for as long as you need us to.
- We'll work with parents and the other professionals in your child's life

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