



Talking Matters

Newsletter June 2010

www.talkingmatters.com.au

Coming up in term three



At Talking Matters we have lots of new programs coming up in term three.

Raelene will be running ready to read groups on a Saturday morning for children aged four and a half to six years to develop early literacy skills. She will also be running Leap into Learning, an early literacy and group skills program for children on the autism spectrum aged 4 1/2 to 6 years.

Keira, Natalie and Karen will also be running some group programs for children on the autism spectrum. Sing, play and learn will focus on music, movement and early language skills for children aged 2 to 4 years. Friendship Friday will focus on developing social skills for children aged 5 and 6 years. Details of all our group programs are available on our website or at the office.

Our occupational therapists Natalie and Lana will be increasing their time at Talking Matters next term. OT services will now be available four days per week. These services can help with skills such as fine motor activities, play skills and hand writing.



We have a number of new workshops for teachers and child care workers coming up. Sessions include play skills, using visual supports, dyslexia and learning difficulties. Due to the increase in OT services we are currently looking for a new venue for our workshops. Details will be placed on the website when finalized.

Talking matters services a number of schools and this is a busy time of the year as children settle into their school work requirements. School holidays are a good time for assessments if families are concerned that their children are having difficulties with learning or literacy or not making the progress they had hoped. Assessments can reveal children's patterns of strengths and weaknesses and there are a range of services available to help children's skills develop while fitting with family budgets and time commitments.

Sadly this term we have said goodbye to Tina who has worked with us since term 3 2009. Tina left due to family commitments and her students are now working with Raelene who comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with students with literacy and learning needs as well as students with autism spectrum.

Fee Changes from July 2010

At Talking Matters we have kept our prices constant since January 2009 despite rising costs. As of 1st July there will be some minor changes to prices which will be as follows:

Speech pathology session \$70

Session with a health care card \$65



Changes to school based services

Our priority in providing a school based service is working with students. Currently our therapists spend a lot of time following up on payments. To help with this sessions at school will be provided using the ezidebit system from the beginning of term three. This will reduce the time associated with processing accounts, allowing therapists to focus on providing a service to students. School based clients will have received the details of this change and any further questions can be directed to your child's speech pathologist.

Does your child :



- Have hard to read handwriting
- Push too hard or too soft when writing
- Write to large for their age
- Have trouble spacing their words on the page
- Have trouble writing on the lines
- Reverse letters and numbers more than other children of the same age ?

Handwriting difficulties can be more than just a poor grip. A full assessment by an Occupational Therapist can identify key areas requiring intervention. Goal directed therapy then focuses on those issues impacting on performance, rather than on just practising the handwriting itself. Natalie Hooper Occupational Therapy Services are expanding. In Term 3 we will be available at Talking Matters Monday to Thursday. To book please call Natalie on 0438 831 551 or Bianca on 08 85621139 (Mon – Wed 9- 3pm).

Developing reading and writing skills

Developing reading and writing involves a number of skills. Parents often ask “should I focus on phonics or sight words?”. Others are concerned about handwriting skills. Children need to draw on a range of skills in order to read and write effectively and there are many reasons why children find developing literacy difficult. Likewise there are many things that can be done to help children develop and succeed.

Some skills needed to read include:

- A good vocabulary and language skills. Much reading is based on prediction which relies on a bank of words and a knowledge of how language is structured into sentences and stories.
- Ability to break down words, recognise letters, associate them with sounds, and link sounds together to form words.
- Ability to recognise sight words that cannot be “sounded out”
- Ability to remember and understand sequences of sounds, words and sentences.

In order to write children need to:

- Form sentences using words and grammar skills.
- Remember how to form sight words that cannot be “sounded out”.
- Break each word into a sequence of sounds, associate a sound with the correct letter, coordinate movements to form the letter shapes on paper.



Formal assessment helps to determine where a child’s difficulties lie and we have a range of individual and group options to develop skills.

“Ready to read” is a small group program which aims to develop a range of these skills in children aged 4 1/2 to 6 years in order to help them succeed with formal literacy training at school. Children learn phonological awareness skills such as hearing sounds, recognising letters, sounding out and blending sounds as well as language skills such as how stories are structured.

For more details see our website or contact the office.

Helping your children reach their potential

Our next workshop:

Play and Language development

Monday 8th August

Presented by Joanna Schutz and Keira Campbell

See website for details



Programs coming in term three:

Ready to read (early literacy for 4 1/2 to 6 years)

Leap into learning (early literacy for children with ASD aged 4 1/2 to 6 years)

Sing, play, learn (music, movement and language for children with ASD aged 2 to 4 years)

Friendship Friday (social skills for children with ASD aged 5 to 6 years)

See website for details www.talkingmatters.com.au

- 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

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