



Talking Matters

Newsletter March 2011

www.talkingmatters.com.au

Moving through term one.

Term one has been busy so far at Talking Matters. Jess has settled into her work in schools and at the office. Keira has begun a new service for students at Hewitt Preschool and Primary School. Louise has begun providing a service for children with feeding difficulties while Keira has begun offering a service to adults with swallowing problems. Joanna continues to offer very popular small groups in a number of schools working alongside teachers to develop language and literacy skills.

As part of our commitment to ongoing training, the speech pathologists are currently doing online Floortime training with the Greenspan Institute in the US. Our professional development program for teachers and child care workers starts again next term with registrations being taken for "Phonological Awareness" on May 9th. We are pleased that we will be running our workshops this year from the Playford Civic Centre, a larger, more comfortable venue.

Our online store is up and running, offering printable resource packs for families, teachers and child care workers to use with children to develop their speech and language skills. A range of other products available are displayed in the waiting room.

Talking Matters Online Store

Have you seen it yet? The store has resource packs for families, teachers and child care workers to download, print and play to develop children's communication skills. They are designed to compliment the work children do with their therapist and to be fun so they want to practice. They are economically priced at \$7.50 per pack and each pack contains materials for a number of activities with high quality coloured images, instructions and extension activity ideas.

New resources are added regularly. Packs currently available include:

- Barrier game packs
- Speech practice game packs
- Vocabulary packs
- Concept packs



[Check it out at store.talkingmatters.com.au](http://store.talkingmatters.com.au)

There have been some new faces around the office. New OT, Kate has settled in to work alongside Natalie. Most will now know the exciting news that Natalie is expecting a baby in June and at that time another OT, Libby will join the team. There is more exciting news with Louise moving house this month, and Debbie's son Brandon off to America to compete in the Lego League World Championship with a team from Trinity Blakeview Campus.

Thanks to all the families who are following us on Facebook, twitter and our website blog. They are great ways to share information. We have had contact with families, therapists and schools all over the world who have a passion for developing children's communication skills.

Looking forward to Easter, we have a children's colouring competition at the end of this newsletter with chances to win some great prizes. Look for the entries and prizes displayed soon in the waiting room and on facebook.

Talking Matters Team



Children with feeding issues

Speech pathologists are trained in assessing and treating feeding difficulties. We use our knowledge of muscles, nerves and the processes that need to occur for successful chewing and swallowing. With the right advice, support and equipment children are on the way to better eating.

Feeding difficulties take many forms but these are some signs a consultation may be needed:

- Drooling or spilling food when eating or drinking.
- Difficulties chewing or coughing or choking when eating.
- Difficulty moving from purees, to soft lumps, to foods requiring chewing, or refusal of solids.
- Lengthy or tedious mealtimes.

If you are concerned call the office or check our website for more information.

Top 10 things to develop your child's literacy



There are many things families can do at home to help their child be successful with literacy. Here are some things you can do to help your child's reading and writing skills develop.

1. Read, Read, Read! Make a habit of reading to your child every day. Reading aloud 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, author and educator suggests sharing three books with your child each day; a new one, one you have read before and an old favourite that your child has heard many, many times. Children learn through repetition.

3. Explore a range of texts. Stories are great but there are lots of other things to explore too, such as magazines, letters, postcards, 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.

5. Talk about books. Help your child learn about how books work. Talk about the cover, how to hold the book and turn the pages, the title and how it gives clues to what is inside. Talk about the pictures and how the words tell about the pictures.

6. Talk about sounds. Talk about the sounds your child hears as a part of their life. Sing songs, tell rhymes and listen to music and stories on CD. Talk about sounds in words. Clap out syllables, talk about long and short words. Read rhyming stories and make up your own rhymes. Talk about the sounds in your child's name. Talk about beginning and ending sounds in words.

7. Talk about words and letters. Look at words everywhere and talk about them. Count the letters in words and talk about long and short words. Find the letter your child's name starts with any where you can.

8. Talk about stories. Talk about how stories have a beginning and ending and how people in stories often have a problem to solve. Talk about the way that, in stories, we need to tell who is talking by using something like "he said". Retell stories from pictures.

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, what might happen next.

10. Make reading and writing a part of your family life. Let your child see you read and write in lots of different ways. Involve them in activities such as opening the mail, writing letters, cards, and lists. Make sure your child has lots of chances through the day to use books, pencils, paper, drawing 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.



Helping your children reach their potential

Next workshop: Phonological awareness

Monday 9th May, 4.30 to 6.30 at Playford Civic Centre. Cost: \$65 (includes presentation notes, certificate of attendance, light refreshments & CD of resources to use). Suitable for teachers, child care staff and SSO's working with children aged 4 to 7 years.

See website for details and registration

<http://talkingmatters.com.au/professionals/pd>

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Range of programs to suit families budgets
- Specialised reading instruction
- Coordinated speech pathology 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

Programs coming in term 2:

Ready to Read: a small group program for children aged 4 1/2 to 6 years to develop early literacy skills.

Succeeding with reading: Individual support for children who need extra help with reading.

See website for details and contact the office to register your interest.

<http://talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/reading>

Talking Matters

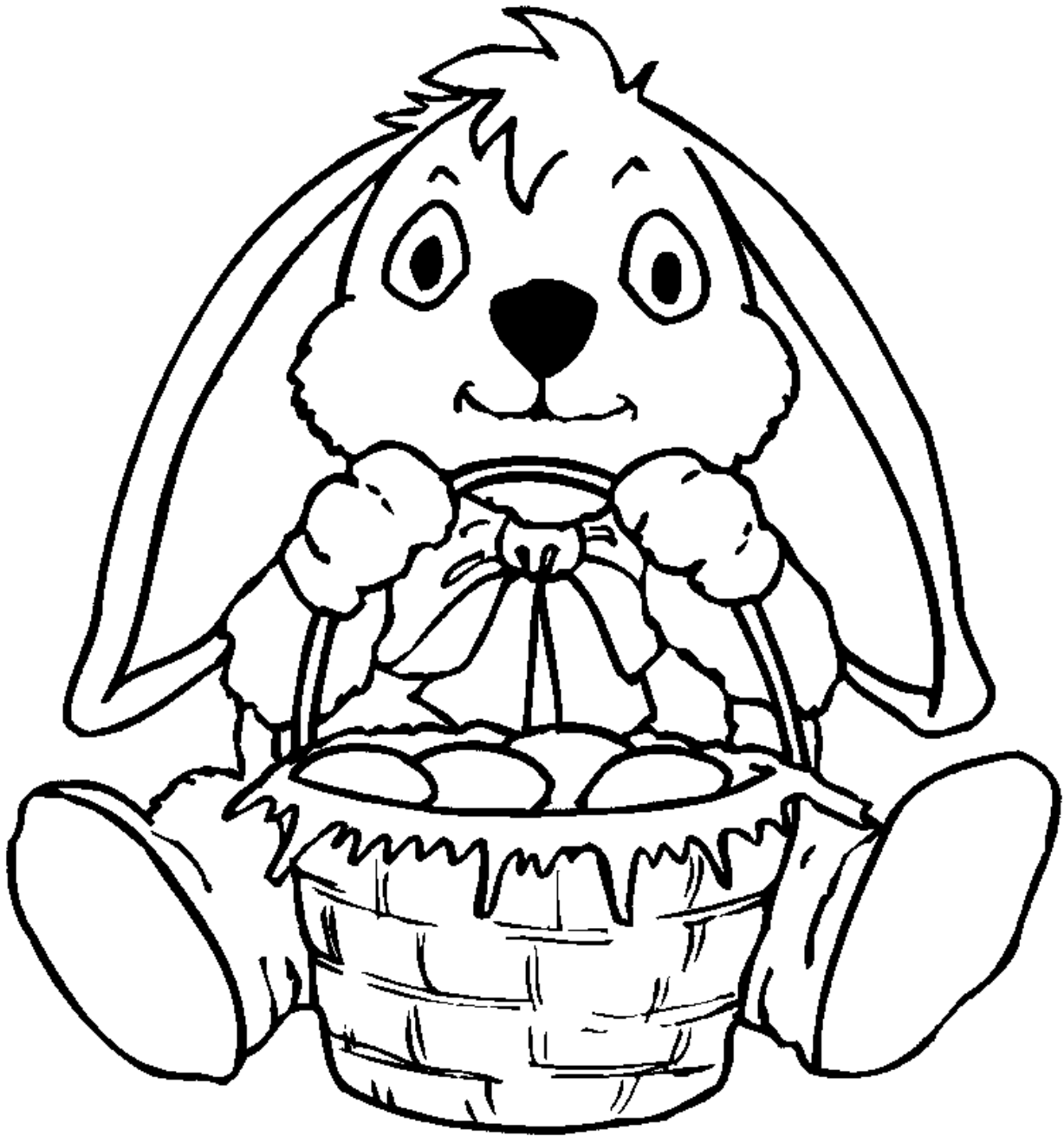
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Happy Easter



Decorate the picture and send to Talking Matters by 8th April to go in the draw to win some great prizes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact phone number: _____ Date of birth: _____ Age _____

Email: _____