



Talking Matters

Newsletter May 2011

www.talkingmatters.com.au

Look what is happening in term two!

There are lots of things happening this month. Some new faces include Amy and Kate who have both started with us. We also welcome back Saara who will be helping Jodie out in the office on Mondays and Thursdays. We sadly said goodbye to Melissa who had to finish up with us due to family commitments.

Keira is getting ready for her wedding to Matt in June in Bali, so keep an eye out for more details coming up. Congratulations to Debbie's son Brandon, who was part of the team from Trinity College, who came third in the world Lego Competition in the US and also appeared on the new inventors. Jess is not just a talented speech pathologist, she can also sing and dance. She has just finished a season of "Joseph" at the Arts Theatre. Debbie and Joanna have both recently become aunts for the first time. Joanna is off to the US for a family wedding and graduation.

Carla, Keira, Joanna and Jo have just completed a basic training course in Floortime and are looking forward to trying some techniques in sessions with children.

All therapists have completed Child Safe Training to make Talking Matters a child safe environment. Talking Matters has applied to be providers for the Better Start program which provides government funded therapy for children with disabilities including hearing loss, Down's syndrome, fragile X and cerebral palsy.

We hope the winners of our colouring competition are enjoying their prize packs. Winning entries can be seen on our facebook page. All the little knights and princesses are really enjoying the castle in our "magic" new waiting room. Thanks to Mike Branson for his great work in creating it for us. If you haven't visited our online store yet there are lots of great products to help kids learn language, and a video starring Jess to tell you how it all works.

Visit store.talkingmatters.com.au



Talking Matters Team



Welcome to Amy and Kate



Talking Matters would like to welcome Amy Muir, speech pathologist, who joins us on Mondays working in the office and providing a visiting service to Craigmore Christian School. Amy comes to us with a wealth of experience as a speech pathologist working in education and health care settings with an interest in children with speech and language difficulties and autism spectrum.

Some of you may have been lucky enough to meet Kate Tauba who has joined our team as a reading teacher. Kate is a qualified teacher and is also studying speech pathology, giving her a great range of skills to work with children needing extra support for literacy. To find out more about the succeeding with reading program visit our website <http://talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/reading>



Local business awards

Talking Matters has been nominated for the Messenger Local Business awards. If we have been of assistance to you, your family or someone you know and you would like to vote for us you can vote online:

www.messengerawards.com.au/vote.html

or ask Jodie or Saara for a form to complete in the waiting room at your next visit.



School is not helping my child read so why should I pay for help ?

This is part of an article that received a lot of interest on our blog. Most families do all they can for their children, but this is about some of the reasons some families use when they decide not to get therapy for their child. The full article is at blog.talkingmatters.com.au

1. **The school isn't doing anything to help so I don't see why I should spend my money on therapy?** If their child was drowning and the life guards were busy saving somebody else, would parents refuse to pull their child out of the water? Children need their parents to advocate for them and to help them when nobody else will.
2. **I pay to send my child to a private school. They should fix the problem.** Schools work hard to help their students learn, but some children require specialist help so they can benefit from the opportunities presented at school. Teachers are teachers, not speech pathologists, occupational therapists, medical practitioners, or other things parents wish they were. They are trained to teach a class full of typically developing kids and do the best they can to accommodate those that need something different.
3. **If my child really needed help the school would provide it. They don't, so it mustn't be too bad.** Schools and Government funded services have a limited budget. There are many, many children who NEED help that won't get it through public services. People who work with children would like to see every child who needs help get it for free from the Government; however the reality is that there aren't enough resources. Again, sometimes parents need to step in and say "My child deserves more and I'm going to make sure they get it!"
4. **I can't afford it.** This isn't a myth for some families, but perhaps some families should say "It's not a priority for us" rather than "we can't afford it". People make choices about how they spend their money and sometimes children's educations are sacrificed for other things. There are a few options that may assist some families financially. For more information about funding options check our webpage <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/costs/funding>
5. **My child has dyslexia, not speech or language problems so we don't need a speech pathologist.** Speech pathologists skills include supporting students who have been diagnosed as dyslexic or have dyslexic signs. They are skilled in knowing how to teach children new skills in communication, including writing and reading. <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/communication/literacy>

If you feel your child's school isn't doing enough, talk to them first. Open and respectful communication between schools and parents usually gets things moving. If the school doesn't have enough resources to provide your child more help, then look for help elsewhere. A good paediatric speech pathologist is a good place to start and they will often know other professionals that can help if something else is needed. Investing in your child's educational future by seeking the specialist support they need while they are young will be one of the best decisions you make.



Helping your children reach their potential

Succeeding with Reading

We still have some places available in this program if you are looking for specialised, individual reading support for your child.

Find out more at:

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

Call the office to book your child's place.



- 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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what's happening



Read our blog
for the latest activities, ideas and
information on kid's speech, language,
literacy and development

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