



Talking Matters

Newsletter November 2013

www.talkingmatters.com.au

What's happening at Talking Matters?

There has been a lot happening in the last few months and there are more exciting things to come. Talking Matters new offices in Elizabeth Downs are almost ready, so see below for how it is progressing.



Many of the team have done training in recent weeks it is important that all team members continue to develop their skills so that children receive the best care possible. Most team members have now completed formal Picture Exchange Communication System training and some have done advanced sessions. We are seeing

great progress with some of our very young children in using PECS to get them communicating.

Lauren, Sasha, Aliya and Christine have also recently attended sessions to further develop their skills in working with children with speech disorders, and Lauren and Sasha have also done further training in working with children who stutter. Carla has recently completed the Hanen "More than words" program for working with young children with ASD.

There are lots of new faces as well. Our new psychologist Karen Lineham has begun with clients and will take over from Angela who will have her baby at the end of the year. Karen is working from the offices two days a week. There are also two new occupational therapists starting soon. Esther Sprod and Kate Levett will support those families currently waiting for OT services. This becomes possible because we will have two rooms for occupational therapy in our new offices.

Esther is currently working at Tanunda Community Health Service and will be joining Talking Matters for two days per week for the remainder of this year. We hope she will be able to pick up more time with us next year. Kate has begun doing some observation sessions in schools and will be joining us for three days per week from January 2014. Kate has experience in working as a disability carer, ABA therapist for children with ASD and is a mum of two children herself.

We have also been joined by two new speech pathology assistants. Helen and Katherine are both speech pathology students who were selected from a large group of students based on their experience, application to task and friendly personalities. They are currently doing observations with Deb on Saturdays and will work in the speech assistant program next year. Helen will also be working with Gemma in January to provide the What's the Buzz social skills groups. For details on how the speech assistant program will run next year see the following page.



Gemma, Stacy and Becky also recently ran a session on developing speech and language skills to families at the Playford Library and received very positive feedback for their presentation.

With so much going on why not follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest to keep up with the latest.



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New Talking Matters office

There has been lots of progress at the new office building which should be ready for staff to move in early in December. We hope to move on the weekend prior to Monday the 2nd of December 2014. The new office will feature more therapy rooms, a group room, a more spacious front office and waiting area, a secure car park and grassed outdoor areas. Work has been progressing with modifying the building inside and out to suit client needs as well as painting and installing air-conditioning and carpeting. The outside areas will continue to develop over the coming months to eventually provide us with a unique further extension to the activities we can provide children with in their therapy.

The new office is located at 238 Midway Road, Elizabeth Downs, just 5 minutes down the road. We will confirm the move date with clients in the near future. In the meantime you can follow the progress on our Facebook page as it happens!



National Disability Insurance Agency



The NDIA (formerly NDIS or Disability Care Australia) is beginning to provide support for children with significant needs such as autism, developmental delay and cerebral palsy.

The program provides funding for "reasonable and necessary" supports including therapy and equipment to increase children's independence and reduce the future impact of disabilities on children's development.

If you are preparing a plan for your child's support remember that early intervention has been shown to be very important for improving children's quality of life in the future. The most important time to access support for your child is now! Therapy to develop children's communication, social emotional skills, daily living skills, behaviour and motor skills in a child's early years has an impact on a child's life for many years to come.

For more information on this program visit the website at <http://www.ndis.gov.au/> or talk to your child's therapist. We have also recently posted a blog on our website to help parents prepare for their meetings.

Talking Matters is a registered provider for speech pathology, occupational therapy and psychology through NDIS.

Are you looking for social skills training?

Talking Matters therapists will be running the "What's the Buzz?" social skills programs in the January school holidays. The program will be available for children in mainstream school.

What's the Buzz? was developed by Mark LeMessurier and develops a set of skills over 16 lessons including greeting, turn-taking, relating to others, winning and losing and managing emotions. The groups will be run in an intensive 2 week period from Monday to Thursday for 8 x 1 1/2 hour sessions. The dates are from the 6th to 16th of January 2014 in the mornings.

Look under 'programs' on our website for a brochure.

If you would be interested in your child participating speak to your therapist or call the office on 82557137.



Help with speech, language or literacy?

The speech assistant program provides cost effective, regular practice sessions for children who have had a program developed by a speech

pathologist. Programs must be less than six months old and can be provided by Talking Matters speech pathologists, or other public speech pathologists such as those who work for DECD, Disability SA etc. Weekly sessions provide extra practice to develop and consolidate skills for children who may not be able to have weekly support by a speech pathologist.

If you know a child who may benefit please speak to a Talking Matters team member or call the TM office.

Helping your children reach their potential

Programs for 2014

We have lots planned including:

- What's the Buzz? social skills groups
- SPOT (Speech and OT) groups
- Speech assistant program
- Teacher professional development April 8th and 9th with Diana Rigg from PLD!

See your therapist or call the office on 82557137 for details.



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 our blog

Talking Matters offers:

- Speech pathology, occupational therapy & psychology
- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Range of programs to suit families budgets
- Saturday morning sessions for busy families
- Autism diagnosis and therapy
- Fun activities to support home practice
- School & home visits available
- Practical professional training sessions with useful resources

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