



Talking Matters



Newsletter Christmas 2010

www.talkingmatters.com.au



Merry Christmas from Talking Matters



Talking Matters workers celebrated Christmas at the Gawler Bowling club who put on a great meal and a game of bowls for us. While no one is heading for the next bowling championships it was a great way for everyone to relax together after a busy 12 months.



If you haven't looked at Talking Matters Plus on our website why not take a chance over the break to check out the resources and activities available on there to download for free.

Our office will be closed from 23rd Dec and reopen on the 10th January. January is a good time to have an assessment if you are concerned about your child's development or would just like an update on how your child is progressing. An assessment can pin point areas where your child would benefit from support and provide strategies for teachers or child care workers. To book give Jodie a call on 82557137.

Thanks to all those who have joined us on face book. It is a great way to keep people up to date with what's happening as well as to share some lighter moments. Check out the photos of the Christmas party and see our interesting bowling techniques!

We are looking forward to starting next year with some familiar programs as well as some new faces. We are taking bookings for next year for assessments, therapy sessions and group programs including Ready to read, Leap into learning and the Speech assistant program. Details of these programs are available on our website.

Also on our website is a download for our school holiday ideas booklet to help you keep your kids learning and entertained through the long summer break.

Looking for quality software?

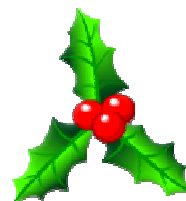
Talking Matters are suppliers of Reading Doctor and Macroworks software. Both these are Australia companies that design and sell quality educational software that makes kids want to learn. While kids are having fun, playing the bright, engaging games, parents can feel confident that they are learning sound literacy skills, linked to Australian curriculum and using Australian voices and sound teaching strategies. Reading Doctor disks are available in stock. Macroworks have a wide range of programs which we can order in for you and are delivered in a few days.

For more information check our website and look under resources for the software tag.

<http://talkingmatters.com.au/resources/software>



Talking Matters wishes all our families a safe, relaxing Merry Christmas.



Speech Assistant Program

Talking Matters currently have speech assistants who work under the supervision of the speech pathologists. The speech assistants work across various days during the school terms. They work with children on their individual programs. The benefits of the program are;

- An individual program written especially for your child's special needs.
- Regular weekly sessions so children improve more quickly.
- Sessions out of school hours if needed so children don't miss valuable school time.
- A cheaper option than weekly speech pathology sessions for families without private insurance.

To find out more call the office or go to

<http://talkingmatters.com.au/therapy/speech-assistant>





Last minute Christmas gift ideas



Looking for some last minute gift ideas for children in your life? Why not give some gifts that will help them learn as well as have fun. **Here are some ideas:**

Babies and toddlers love toys with movement, colour, sound and texture to develop their senses and eye hand control such as: blocks, stacking toys, shape sorters, simple puzzles, sand and water toys. Simple pretend play toys such as big solid cars and trucks, animals, dolls, tea and cooking sets are also great toys that little ones will continue to use as they get older.



Preschoolers love pretending so what about: cars and trucks with a car mat or garage; trains sets, farm and zoo animals or dinosaurs, tea and cooking sets, dress ups, dolls houses and variations such as fire stations, schools and shops. Craft activities are great for this age as well to develop language concepts and eye hand control such as drawing materials, coloured paper, glue, stickers, scissors, stamps and foam shapes. You can buy craft packs or make your own.

School age kids still enjoy and learn from pretend play and more complex craft activities. They also like construction toys such as Lego and different types of building and model kits. Board games are also good at this age.

Older kids can be difficult to buy for as the things they enjoy are often more expensive. Why not give them an experience such as a movie ticket, a pass to the zoo or a water or theme park, a ticket to a kids performance or a voucher for music, books or toys from one of the really interesting book, game, craft, hobby or science shops.

Download the school holiday activity booklet from the front page of our website for ideas on how to use your child's presents to develop their learning and communication skills.



Helping your children reach their potential

Looking for ideas about what to do with the kids in the holidays?

Download the school holiday activity booklet from the front page of our website

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Programs coming in 2011:

- Ready to Read
- Leap into Learning
- Speech assistant program

See website for details

- 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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