



# Talking Matters

Newsletter November 2012

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

## What's been happening lately?

We were honoured to have Senator Jan McLucas the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, and Nick Champion the federal member for Wakefield visit us here at Talking Matters on November 5th. The Senator requested to visit our centre and meet our staff and families to see first hand the difference early intervention is making.

Senator McLucas and Mr Champion met with some of our families and heard how early intervention services, including speech pathology and occupational therapy were helping their children get a better start in life. Our families also took the opportunity to advocate for more services both for families that are currently funded and those who don't currently receive this additional support. Thank you to parents Kylie, Christine, Mel, Gayle and Catherine who all met with the Senator to share their stories about their children with special needs.

Mr Champion said "The Australian Government knows that early intervention services are vital in helping children reach

their full potential. However, a big challenge for many local families is the cost of accessing services. Through **Better Start** and **Helping Children with Autism funding**, families with children under the age of 7 can receive up to \$12,000 for early intervention services and therapies that they can choose themselves."

Further information on **Better Start** and **Helping Children with Autism Funding** can be found on our website <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/funding/early-intervention-packages> or phone our office on 8255 7137. The full media release can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/UtrEQ>



## Have you seen...

We have loads of activities and free downloads on our website to help keep your children entertained these holidays. If you are looking for language rich activities for the school holidays then why not download our free activity pack '**School Holiday Activities for fun and learning**'. It's full of ideas like making a collage, cooking and making your own bubble mix.

Is your child starting school next year? Discover how to help your child have a great start at school with our free download '**Starting School**'. This activity pack outlines some of the key skills required for a successful start to school. Sign up using the sign up box on our website and provide your email address to receive this valuable guide.



The '**Childcare Centre Activity Pack**' has also been added to this download page and provides access to a range of information sheets and activities that could also be used by parents at home. As well as information by age for younger children there are colourful fun activities already prepared for parents or carers to print and use. These and other great activities and resources can be found at <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/>

## Our blog has regular postings on child development also

Every week we talk about various different topics and include helpful tips and ideas. This month we have covered topics like Downs syndrome, language strategies, caring for families, communicating choices, problem solving and many more. To get every new post on Talking Matters Blog delivered to your inbox go to <http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/subscribe/>

# Christmas colouring competition!

Christmas is fast approaching and its time to decorate our reception area and we would really love to display some of your child's artwork.

It's easy to enter, the colouring picture is on the last page of this newsletter. Just print it out and once your child has finished colouring it in, bring it back to us so we can display them on our wall. Every child who enters, will receive a special Christmas gift pack (pictured right).



Entries will be judged in age group categories of up to 6 years, 7-10 years and 11+ years. Winners of these categories will be drawn and notified on Wednesday 19th December. Prizes will be on display in reception soon, so keep an eye out for that!

## Where has this year gone?

Our office will close for Christmas on Friday 21st December and re-open Monday 7th January. If you're thinking about having an assessment (speech & language, Autism Spectrum Disorder) done but haven't yet booked one please act quickly to avoid disappointment. Having updated information for the new school year can be useful in helping your child's new teacher understand their needs early on. Children who have been receiving therapy and haven't had an assessment completed in the last 18 months may benefit from a reassessment and having their goals reviewed. Also children who haven't achieved as well at school this last year as you would have hoped may also benefit from seeing a speech pathologist for assessment. Often children who are struggling at school have underlying difficulties with language or literacy that a speech pathologist can assist with. Limited spaces are still available in December. For bookings either in December or January before school returns please phone our office on 8255 7137 and we would be happy to assist with your booking/enquiries.

### *Helping your children reach their potential*

**Keep up to date with recent events on our facebook page.**

<http://www.facebook.com/talkingmatters>

Free information and activities in the resources section of the website. Follow the links from our homepage

[www.talkingmatters.com.au](http://www.talkingmatters.com.au)

- Individualised assessment and therapy
- Friendly and professional staff
- Co-located occupational therapists
- Educational software your child will want to use
- Fun activities to support home practice
- Providing families as much help as they want
- Medicare registered providers
- Betterstart and Helping Children with Autism Early Intervention Providers

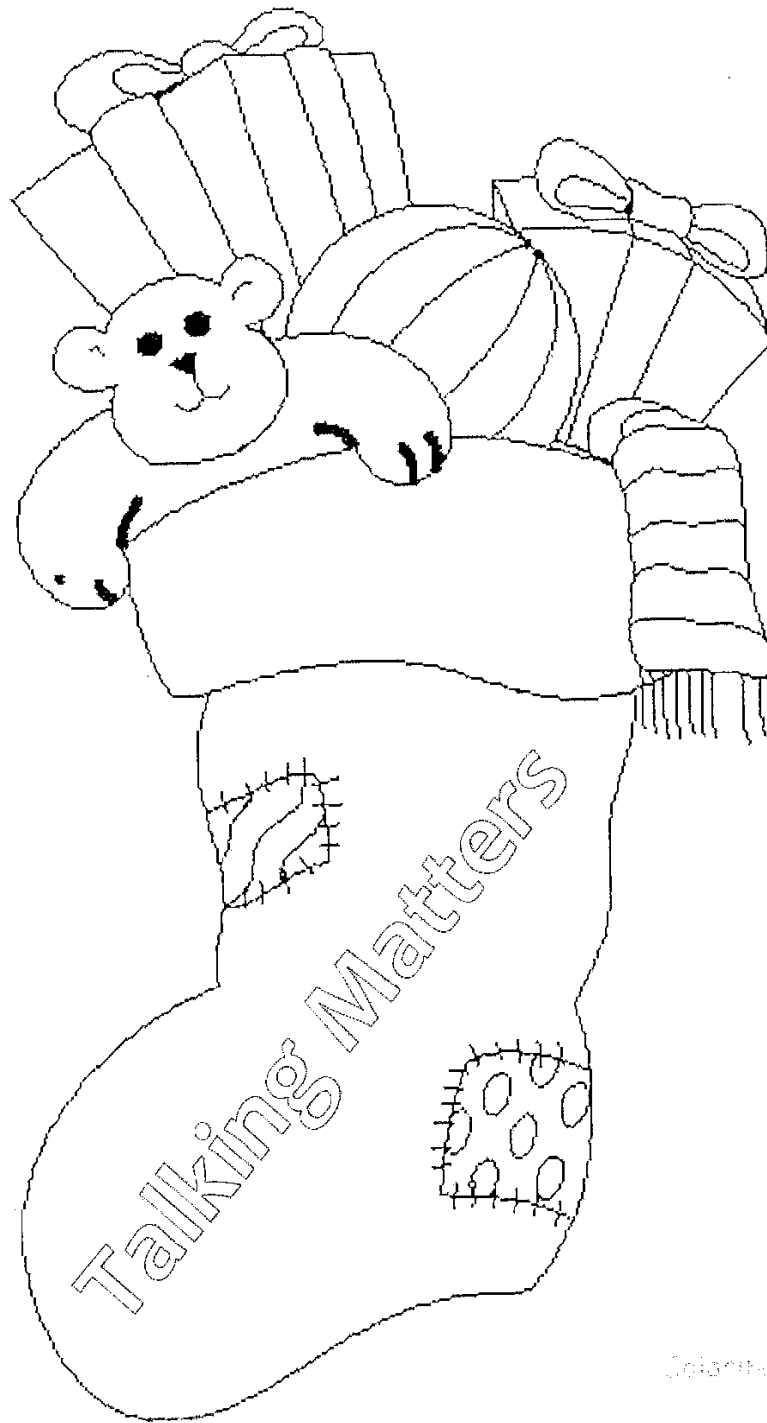
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Child's Name.....

Age.....

Parent's Name.....