



Talking Matters

Newsletter October 2012

www.talkingmatters.com.au

What's been happening lately?

Term 4 has started and it has been very busy here at Talking Matters. We really enjoyed having our students Emma and Kristen with us. They both were a delight to have onboard and we know they loved every precious moment spent with our families. The girls have learned and developed so much and we thank you for giving them the opportunity to work with your children. While we will miss their smiling faces, we know that they are headed for great things and wish them every success for their future endeavors.

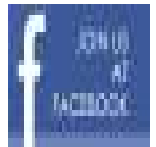
Keira has settled back in to part time work. She spends Tuesdays on school visits and is at the Elizabeth East office on Saturdays for new assessments and therapy. So if a Saturday appointment suits your busy family schedule, please call the office and we will be happy to assist.

Joint Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessments with Joanne Brenecki & Angela Coppi, psychologist have started and are going very well. Assessments are held on Monday mornings and times are filling fast so if you're thinking about booking, don't delay.

Some of our speech pathologists attended Sue Larkey's workshop recently and very much enjoyed her practical approach to working with children on the autism spectrum. As one lead on from this we now stock some of the great books and resources she displayed that we think will be useful for our families.

Our team also recently completed the "What's the Buzz" social skills workshop with Mark Le Messurier. It was a fun and informing day which gave us some great ideas. We are now looking at providing social skills programs at school for children which is where they most need these skills. Talk to one of our team if you'd like more information on this option.

We recently reached 400+ likes on Facebook which was a little bit exciting! Thank you to everyone who has enjoyed our page, you're helping us to grow and we'd like to grow some more. We welcome your comments and feedback on www.facebook.com/talkingmatters



What speech & language skills should my child have?

Three year olds should be able to understand instructions with a couple of parts, such as get your shoes and put them by the door. They should be able to make sentences of up to 5 words, know their name, age and if they are a boy or a girl. They should speak clearly enough that most of what they say can be understood by a familiar person.

Four year olds are confident communicators and are able to speak clearly and fluently using long complex sentences. They should pronounce most words correctly, though they may still have difficulty with later developing sounds such as "r" and "th" and long words such as "hospital" and "spaghetti". Four year olds should be able to describe something they have done in another time or place and be able to retell a familiar story from a book. They should also be able to tell how to do something familiar with a number of steps for example how to make a sandwich or brush your teeth.

Five year olds usually show well developed communication skills. They should be able to hold a conversation confidently with adults and other children. Listen to and understand stories and retell them from the pictures and be using past, present and future tenses. They should ask and answer "why" and "how" questions and be able to describe their feelings with words such as: happy, sad, mad. When beginning school they should be able to write their own name, recognise letters and the sounds they make and understand the structure of a story with a beginning, middle and end.



Free checklists by age to help understand children's developmental patterns are available at <http://www.talkingmatters.com.au/resources/checklists>

New books available!



Why do I have to?

Author Laurie Leventhal-Belfer

A valuable book for parents understanding children who have difficulty coping with the expectations of daily living.

Looking at everyday situations at home, with friends and at school, this book provides a list of practical suggestions for how to cope with these challenges and feelings of frustration.



Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew

Author Ellen Notbohm

This book defines the top ten characteristics that illuminate the minds and hearts of children with autism.

Helpful chapters include:

- ◆ My sensory perceptions are disordered
- ◆ Distinguish between won't and can't
- ◆ I am a concrete thinker. I interpret language literally
- ◆ Be patient with my limited vocabulary
- ◆ Because language is so difficult for me, I am very visually oriented
- ◆ Focus and build on what I can do rather than what I can't do
- ◆ Identify what triggers my meltdowns
- ◆ Help me with social interactions

These books and many other helpful titles are available now. Speak to your clinician or our reception staff about these and other titles that are available to purchase. Where appropriate FaHCSIA funding may be used.

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

- 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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