



Talking Matters



Newsletter **Christmas** 2016

www.talkingmatters.com.au



Merry Christmas from Talking Matters



It's been a very busy year and Christmas is approaching fast.

Our annual Christmas party for Talking Matters clients was the biggest ever. We had all kinds of fun things including a bouncy castle, petting zoo, craft activities, scouts, police, cross fit and of course Santa.

Our Christmas colouring competition which can be printed from this newsletter, has two great prize baskets to win. Leave your entries at the office to enter by Mon 12th Dec.

We have had a group of four final year speech pathology students on placement for the last half of the year and we are very excited that they will be joining our team as fully qualified speech pathologists in the new year. We will also be welcoming some other new team members in January including some new OTs to allow more children to access OT services.

We wanted to wish all the TM families as well as the schools and preschool, and all our colleagues that we work with through the year a safe and happy Christmas.



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School holiday group programs

We have a number of group programs planned for the January school holidays and are also taking bookings for April.

Transition to School groups.

Designed to help children beginning school in 2017 with following school routines, working in a group, language, early literacy and handwriting to be ready for independence at school.

Social skills groups

We have groups for junior primary, primary and high school students based on the What's the Buzz? program to which focuses on developing social communication, emotional self regulation and friendship skills.

Handwriting groups

These groups are for children who need help to develop quicker, neater writing and are run by an occupational therapist to make learning better handwriting lots of fun!

Food School and Food Science for Fussy Eaters.

These groups are based on the SOS approach to feeding and aim to support children who struggle to try new foods, tastes or textures.

Dressing group.

This group provides practice to get dressed independently as well as do up buttons, zips and shoelaces.

All groups are run by Talking Matters team members and are available through NDIA funding for eligible children. The skills targeted in the group must relate to the child's NDIA goals and there must sufficient funds available. Self funded families are also welcome.

To find out if one of these groups would suit your child speak to your Talking Matters therapist, check the services/ programs tab on our website for details or pick up a brochure from the office.

If you would like to find out more or to register your interest contact the office on 82557137. Places are filling fast.



Why attending holiday sessions helps your child!

The school holidays allow more time with family members and less demands from school. This is a perfect time to practice therapy goals. While the school holidays are a time to have fun and recharge batteries, our aim is to support you and your child to continue to progress with skill development. Some benefits of school holiday therapy sessions are:

Building on skills rather than simply maintain them. You, your child and your therapist have worked hard throughout the year building your child's skills. Reduction in support over school holiday breaks can see a loss in skills recently developed.

Children have extra time and energy to use toward therapy practice when they are not attending school. During school terms you may feel bombarded with home practice from school and therapists. Holiday breaks are a fantastic time to increase focus on therapy practice.

Children benefit from routine. Therapy can provide consistency when many other aspects of routine are changing.

Updating assessments prior to starting the new year can support you, your therapist and teacher to understand your child's strengths and areas to target throughout the year.

Increasing therapy intensity during the holidays may interest you. As you may have time off work, you may like to attend more regularly or have longer sessions.

Child care and home visits are a great opportunity for the therapist to come out to you and see your child in their own environment. Speak to your therapist if you and your child are interested this option.

School holiday groups at Talking Matters provide a range of learning opportunities. Speak to your therapist if you and your child are interested in joining a group.

For children and families who access school based therapy services, the school holiday period can be the perfect time to sit down with your therapist in person at the Talking Matters office, or at your home. This will provide you the opportunity to discuss progress, goals and strategies to use at home, face to face rather than through electronic communication.

Get the most out of your holidays. Speak to your therapist or phone the Talking Matters office 8255 7137 to book into groups and regular therapy sessions.



Helping your children reach their potential

Can't make groups in January?

We are now taking bookings for April for:

- Social skills
- Handwriting
- Touch Typing
- Play Skills
- Fussy Eaters
- Motor skills

Check the website for details then call 82557137 to book.

Talking Matters offers:

- Speech pathology & occupational therapy
- Individualised assessment and therapy
- 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
- A range of resources to support therapy

Want information and free resources ?

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

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



RETURN THIS SLIP ALONG WITH YOUR ENTRY TO GO IN THE DRAW

Childs Name:

Parents Name:

Phone Number:

We would like to display the children's art for Christmas.
Please advise us if you don't provide your consent for us to do so.

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