



# Talking Matters

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**Newsletter September 2010**

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

## Talking Matters News

Term three has been a busy term at Talking Matters. We have had the first term of our group programs with one Sing, Play Learn group learning early communication and motor skills, two Friendship Friday groups learning social skills and three Leap into Learning groups learning school readiness and early literacy skills. We are currently in the planning process for groups for next term.

The Talking Matters office will be open during the October school holidays and there are still a few places available for assessments during this time. We are also finalizing bookings for group, speech assistant and succeeding with reading programs for term four. There are a range of group programs available for communications skills, literacy and social skills, so check our website for details.

Sadly we say goodbye to Lana Farley, occupational therapist who has worked alongside Natalie Hooper for the past year. Lana will be working full time for Barossa Health Service and Natalie will be taking on a new full time OT in the new year.

Lana's bright and vibrant presence will be missed by the Talking Matters team and the many children who had fun working with her.

While most speech pathologists are working through these holidays, we will all try to have a little time off with our families. Keira is off for a well deserved break in London and Paris. Keira has worked very hard for the last few terms and we hope she has a great time.

We also hope all our families have a great school holidays and enjoy the lovely spring weather.

Talking Matters Team

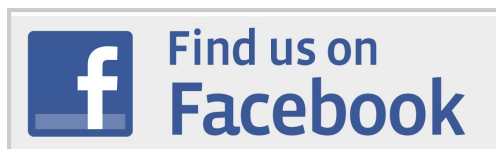


## Follow us on Face book, Twitter and Tumblr

To keep you up to date with the latest news, ideas and activities on speech, language, learning, literacy and child development, Talking Matters is now on face book, twitter and tumblr. Each has a link on the front page of our website. You can sign up to follow us on twitter to get quick tips and updates. Our face book page will build with ideas and activities for families and kids such as great places for outings and great websites. Our Tumblr blog will give ideas, answers to common questions, tips and activities and the latest research in child development and communication of interest to parents.

To get it all started we will have a great activity idea for each day of the school holidays, with some ways that you can use that fun activity to help your child learn and develop communication skills while keeping busy; because busy kids are happy kids and happy kids make happy parents.

<http://blog.talkingmatters.com.au/>



follow us on  
**twitter**



# NAPLAN tests

NAPLAN test results came home this week. The NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy) testing assesses children's skills in four areas: reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy. Children are tested in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The results show how your child compares to others of their age and whether they have met the minimum standards for their age group in each of the four areas.

Children who show difficulties with any or all of first three areas may have a language based learning problem. Talking Matters speech pathologists can provide a detailed assessment of language skills and make recommendations about strategies and support options for children. We offer individual sessions to develop language and literacy skills and also have a range of individual and group programs for children.

Our website has sections on language and literacy as well as information about assessment and therapy options. The "plus" section of our website has information sheets about language assessments in the "language" section as well as classroom and homework strategies. In the "literacy" section you can find ideas for helping with spelling and reading. Families and teachers can sign up to download this information free of charge.

Difficulties with numeracy may be helped by tutoring by a qualified maths tutor and SPELD can provide lists of tutors in your area. Children with difficulties across all areas may benefit from an assessment from an educational psychologist.

You can find out more about the Naplan assessment and how to understand your child's results by going to <http://www.naplan.edu.au>. Contact us if you are concerned about your child's scores and would like further information about how we can help.



## Helping your children reach their potential

**Our workshops will be returning in 2011 with a new venue and some new topics as well as repeats of popular topics by request.**

### Programs coming soon:

Ready to read  
Succeeding with reading  
Friendship Friday  
Sing, play, learn  
Leap into Learning

**See our 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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