

# THE SPEECH BUBBLE

The Speak, Learn and Grow Newsletter

My child is  
stuttering. When  
should I be  
concerned?

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Term 3 at Speak Learn & Grow has been busy with a number of student placements, onboarding our new receptionist, Bella, and lots of learning as always. Elaria has done Hanen training and is now certified to present the More Than Words program to parents with children on the autism spectrum and Kerry is now certified to offer Talkability training.

Please see page 7 regarding our closure dates over Christmas.

Also, if your child is starting Big School next year, have a look at the School Readiness Intensives on pg 4

Spring is in the air and we have a spring in our step as we head into Term 4 of 2022.



## MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

### **Katerina**

Katerina is currently in her first year of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Macquarie University as a mature aged student, and joins our team of Therapy Assistants.



She has always had a passion for helping others and a strong interest in supporting children with disabilities and assisting them with their communication. Being a part of the process to help them reach their full potential and building their confidence brings her joy.

In her spare time Katerina loves reading books, cooking and going to the gym.

# OUR VALUES

Understanding our values as an organisation, tells you more about who we are and what is important to us

## Care

As health professionals, we don't simply 'treat' the condition, but care about you as a family unit. We listen to what is important to you

## Give our best

We are always trying to improve how we target client's goals by coming up with innovative ideas so that we can give our best therapy possible

## Respect

We treat everyone with respect, irrespective of your background, culture or educational level. You are important to us.

## Team

We support our team members, help each other out and share our knowledge and resources. This makes us a stronger, more effective unit.

## Grow

We are passionate about learning and growing in our understanding of communication and literacy difficulties and we dedicate a lot of time to this

*"Values are like lighthouses; they are signals giving us direction, meaning and purpose"*

Recruiter Journal

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY INTENSIVES

## Dates

9th - 13th January  
16th - 20th January

## School Readiness

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children, parents, grandparents and carers!

If your child is starting school in 2023 we can help your child get ready during the school holidays in a individualised one-to-one or small group program.

Our school readiness program focuses on strengthening your child's current knowledge and abilities so that they can be confident little learners at school in the following:

- phonological awareness skills (building blocks of early reading & writing skills)
- letter to sound matching
- blending (e.g. cat) and segmenting e.g. c-a-t) skills
- syllables (counting the beats) & rhyme (e.g. pat-mat)
- expressive language skills (e.g. telling stories, sharing news, answering and asking questions)



We can continue to develop and strengthen your child's current knowledge and abilities in tailored individual or small group programs:

- **Reading Intensives** - phonic knowledge, word attack skills, reading and writing tasks
- **Therapy Intensives** - speech sounds, sharing stories and talking about events, following instructions & understanding concepts.

# MY CHILD IS STUTTERING - WHEN SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?



## ***What is stuttering?***

**Stuttering is when the normal flow of speech is disrupted. Speech pathologists commonly refer to it as a 'disorder of fluency' because it interferes with the smooth, flowing, effortless speech many of us take for granted.**

**A child who stutters repeats or prolongs sounds, syllables, or words.**

**Stuttering is different from repeating words when learning to speak, and it may make it difficult for a child to communicate with others. A speech pathologist can assess formally whether your child is stuttering.**

## ***Did you know...***

Many pre-schoolers who stutter recover naturally. However we can't predict which children will recover naturally and which children will stutter into adolescence and adulthood, when stuttering becomes much harder to treat.

## **Stuttering vs normal disfluencies**

Normal disfluencies are very typical in young children or toddlers because they are learning multiple skills at the same time. They are characterised by interjections (e.g. um, ah), hesitations, whole word repetitions and phrase repetitions.. Often the child is mostly unaware of the disfluencies and doesn't show frustration. It usually disappears within a few weeks or months

## **When should I be concerned?**

Consider seeking treatment for stuttering if your child:

- has been stuttering for more than 6 months
- is frustrated, distressed and/or is starting to withdraw from speaking.
- if you are really worried about how the stutter is affecting your child's communication and/or if stuttering runs in your family.

# CRAFT FUN

We love these easy to make paper flowers. Why don't you bring some spring into your home and make these colourful flowers with your children?

Crafts are a fun way to practice language skills, including following directions, learning sequences (first, next, after, before), using descriptive words (e.g. bright, smooth, crinkled) and comparative words (e.g. taller, prettiest)

Click on  
the link



## DIY Paper Flowers For Kids

Wanna help your kids develop their artistic and motor skills? Learn how to make paper flowers for kids for a fun family activity you'll all enjoy! Easy Paper Flowers For Kids Ever wanted to learn how to make paper flowers f...

👉 Easy Peasy Creative Ideas / Oct 27, 2018

[theseamanmom.com](http://theseamanmom.com)

# UPDATES

## CHRISTMAS CLOSURE



**Our practice will be closed on  
Friday 23rd December 2022  
and will re-open on  
Thursday 5th January 2023.**

## HOW TO CONNECT WITH US

**The team at Speak, Learn and Grow want to stay connected with all members of the community. Please follow us on our socials below...**



SpeakLearnGrowSpeechPathologyServices



@speaklearngrow



Speak, Learn and Grow Speech Pathology Services

## HOW TO CONTACT US WITH FEEDBACK/COMPLAINTS

Approach our  
friendly  
reception staff

Leave your feedback in the  
'Feedback Dropbox' at  
Reception

email us  
directly

Speak to your therapist  
directly,  
in person or via email

Fill in a Feedback form on our website:  
[www.speech-learning.com.au](http://www.speech-learning.com.au)