

# THE SPEECH BUBBLE



The Speak, Learn and Grow Newsletter

**Practical tips to  
expand your  
child's  
vocabulary**

**page 6**



## SPRING HAS ARRIVED

The weather has warmed, and we have grabbed the sunscreen and headed back to the beach. We are also headed into the last term of 2023. It's been a full and successful year so far with lots of positive changes and incredible goals that have been achieved.

Read on to learn more about our team members, understand our approach to intervention, find out about our social skills groups and learn practical tips that you can use to build your child's vocabulary every day.

## TERM 4 2023

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# TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Senior Therapists

### Elaria



#### How long have you been with the company?

I celebrated my 3 year anniversary in August this year.

#### Tell us about any recent training you've done?

I completed the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) Level 1 Training. PECS is an augmentative and alternative communication system that teaches learners how to request and initiate communication using pictures of a desired item or action. The goal of PECS is to teach learners functional communication.

#### Who inspires you?

My family. Each member in a different way, but generally speaking, they all inspire me to be a better person every single day.

#### Do you have a hidden talent?

If I do have a hidden talent, it's either still hiding or should remain hidden. However, I do like to think of myself as an amateur beat boxer.

#### How long have you been with the company?

I joined the team in January 2022, so a bit shy of 2 years.

#### Tell us about any recent training you've done?

The most recent was the Lidcombe Program, which is aimed at helping young children reduce their stuttering. I loved this course and found it very practical with lots of problem-solving elements, which has really helped my implementation of the techniques with my clients. I also have an upcoming 3-day course with PROMPT (Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets) which I am very excited about, as speech sounds is one of my favourite areas.

#### Who inspires you?

My older sister. Her list of personal and professional achievements is too long to keep track of, but it's her strive and passion for bettering herself which is truly inspirational. She makes the most out of every opportunity & never wastes a second. She inspires me to try to do the same.

#### Do you have a hidden talent?

Not really! But if I had to choose something, I have perfect pitch.

### Nicole





# SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS

For the first time, SLG hosted social skills group intensive sessions in the holidays - it was a *success!*

## What did sessions **look** like?

- 3 x 45-minute sessions, held across 3 days
- Groups of 3 children per group
- Groups based on age and social skill goals

## What were some of the **goals** that were targeted?

*4-5 years:*

- Initiating conversations
- Good friend vs Bad friend
- It's okay not to win
- Turk taking
- Playing by the rules

*5-7 years:*

- How to join a group that is already playing
- Staying on topic
- Playing a non-preferred game

*9-11 years*

- Initiating, maintaining and ending conversations
- Perspective taking
- Reading the room
- Emotional regulation strategies



If you would like to express interest for the next time we do social skill groups, get in touch today!

## How were the goals targeted?

- Real life videos
- Social stories
- Discussion
- Games
- Role play
- ... and more!

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Have you heard of “a different brilliant” podcast?

“**a different brilliant**” is a podcast hosted by the Autistic radio and TV entertainer, Orion Kelly.

It is run by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).



### Some stats

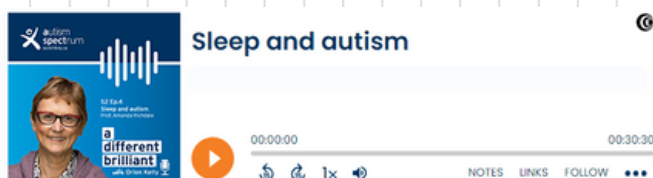
- Began in 2020
- 25-35 min each episode
- 35,000+ downloads
- Rated 4.9 stars



## What is the podcast about?

*The podcast covers topics that are not commonly discussed, such as:*

- Women and girls on the Autism spectrum
- Positive parenting
- The connection between sleep and autism
- Intersectional identities
- Autism and ADHD
- Communicating with a person who is non-verbal ... and more!



Learn more about the podcast by visiting Aspect's website  
<https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/about-autism/podcasts>

# PARENT TIPS

## How can you help build your child's vocabulary?



The Hanen Centre®

Make a point of highlighting a variety of word types when talking to your child, not just the names of things. It is important for your child to learn a variety of word types in order to talk in short sentences.

Be sure to check out Parent Tips on the Hanen Website

<https://www.hanen.org/Helpful-Info/Parent-Tips.aspx>

### **Action Words** (Verbs)

Remember to label what you or your child are doing or what you see characters in a story doing.

**e.g.**

sleep, eat, drink  
run, jump, hide  
push, pull, tap  
squeeze, pour  
break, fix

### **Descriptive words**

(Adjectives & Adverbs)

Using descriptive words helps your child learn new concepts and how to give more information.

**e.g.**

soft, hard, smooth  
hot, cold sticky,  
funny, silly, tired  
big, tiny, round  
fast, slow, careful

### **Location Words**

(Prepositions)

Talk about where objects are in relation to each other so that your child learns these words.

**e.g.**

up, down  
in, on  
under, on top, behind  
next to, in between  
through



### **Words about belonging**

(Possessive pronouns)

Talking about who objects belong to helps build an understanding of these words when making sentences.

**e.g.**

my, your  
his, her  
mummy's

### **Feeling Words** (Emotions)

Labelling your child's or others' feelings builds awareness of emotions and the vocabulary needed to describe these.

**e.g.**

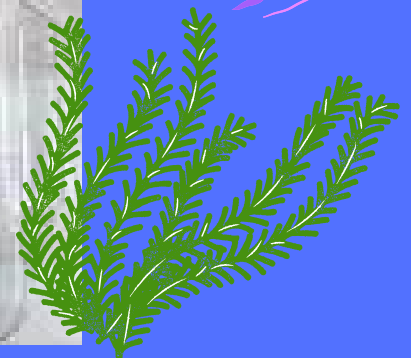
sad, happy, excited  
angry, frustrated  
sick, worried  
disappointed  
surprised, nervous

# MAGIC PAPER TOWEL EXPERIMENT

1. Draw fishes of different colors on the inside of the paper towel sheet.
2. Close the second sheet almost like a book so that the fishes are inside.
3. Then, add ocean swirls on the outside.
4. Immerse your paper towel into the water and watch the magic as the two unite.
5. Talk about the colors.



## MAGIC paper towel EXPERIMENT



# 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.



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NEW



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[Speak, Learn and Grow Speech Pathology Services](#)

## HOW TO CONTACT US WITH FEEDBACK/COMPLAINTS

Speak to your  
therapist directly

Leave your feedback in the  
'Feedback Dropbox'  
at Reception

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

Approach our  
friendly  
reception staff

Email us directly  
[info@speech-learning.com.au](mailto:info@speech-learning.com.au)

