



THE SPEECH BUBBLE

The Speak, Learn and Grow Newsletter

AUTUMN TIME



Welcome to Term 2 2026

As the leaves begin to turn and the air carries that familiar autumn crispness, we're embracing the season of warmth, reflection, and growth. It's been a busy and joy-filled time here at the clinic—read on to find out what our team has been up to!

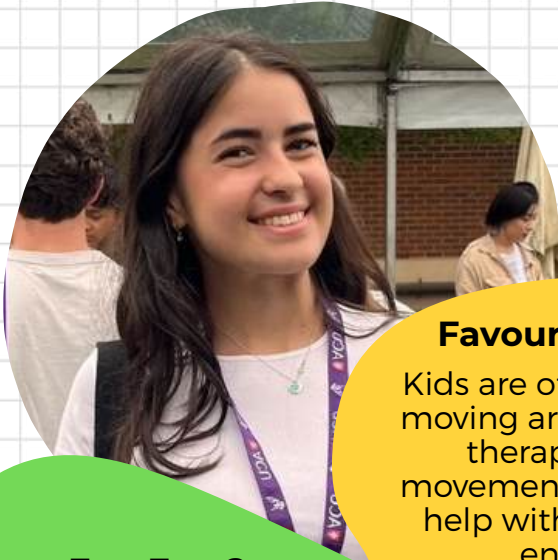
In this edition of The Speech Bubble, we're thrilled to introduce our new therapy assistant, share highlights from our recent team building event, unveil our second 'What We Believe' statement, and offer some practical tips to help parents nurture their children's language skills at home.

Here's to cosy conversations, colourful connections, and continuing to grow together this autumn season!

TERM 2 2026

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TEAM MEMBERS



Welcome Isabella!

We're excited to officially welcome our new therapy assistant, Isabella, to the team!

Isabella is a fourth year speech pathology student currently studying at Australian Catholic University.

Favourite Therapy Activity?

Kids are often full of energy and love moving around, so I try to use that in therapy. I enjoy turning their movement into easy, fun games that help with their goals while they're enjoying themselves.

Why Did You Choose Speech Pathology?

I've always been drawn to a career where I can make a meaningful difference in people's lives while building genuine connections.

Combined with my interest in health and medicine, Speech Pathology felt like a natural fit. I strongly believe that communication is fundamental to human connection and is what allows us to express ourselves, build relationships, and feel understood.

Fun Fact?

I'm a real language lover! I come from a Brazilian and Italian background, so Portuguese was actually my first language. I studied French for five years and have been learning Spanish for the last two.

What Are You Looking Forward To?

I've always loved working with kids and families. I'm eager to transition my skills into my practice as a TA and help support client's communication goals.

What does a Therapy assistant do?

Therapy assistants (TAs) work alongside your child's lead therapist to run their own sessions using goals set by their speech pathologist, giving your child more opportunities to practise and build their skills between appointments.

Who can benefit from a therapy assistant?

Therapy assistants can support all children including working on:

- Speech sound development
- Language skills
- Social communication
- Literacy
- AAC
- Play skills and engagement
- Confidence, independence, and self-advocacy

Ask your therapist or our client care coordinators if a therapy assistant session is appropriate for your child!

WE BELIEVE STATEMENTS

We believe in providing a neurodiversity-affirming, child-led, and play-based approach.

We celebrate the unique ways every child's brain works, recognising differences as natural variations rather than deficits. Our practice is built on acceptance, ensuring every child feels valued exactly as they are

We follow each child's interests, pace, and natural curiosity rather than imposing a rigid agenda. This means the child always feels a sense of ownership and safety in their sessions

Play is the most natural and powerful way children communicate, process, and make sense of the world. By embedding therapy within play, we meet children in the space where they feel most comfortable and free.

Rather than focusing on what a child "can't do," we start by identifying and building on their existing strengths and passions. This approach nurtures confidence and a positive sense of self.

A child-led approach means creating an environment where children feel psychologically safe, respected, and heard. When children feel safe, they are far more able to engage, explore, and grow.

We believe that laughter, fun, and genuine enjoyment are not just nice to have – they are core ingredients of meaningful progress. When therapy feels joyful, children are motivated, engaged, and thriving.



TEAM BUILDING DAY

At our recent team building day, we took a step back from our usual clinical work to reconnect with what drives us - our **GROWTH** values.

These values aren't just words we display; they shape how we show up for our clients, families, and each other every day:

Grow continuously, Relationships first, One team, Work together, Thrive through play, Heart for the community.

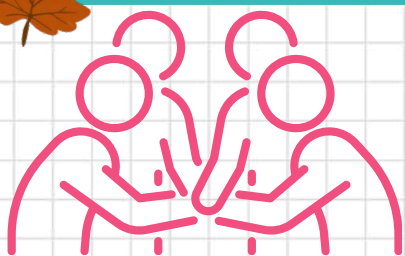
Throughout the day, we explored what these values mean in action.

We started by reflecting on **why values matter** - not just as a clinic, but as individuals. It sparked thoughtful conversations about how our shared purpose supports better outcomes for the people we work with and creates a positive, supportive team culture.

One of the highlights was our **mini masterclasses**, where team members shared their knowledge and skills with each other. This was a powerful reminder of the expertise within our team and how we truly grow continuously when we learn from one another.



We also shared **“story time” moments** - real experiences from goal review meetings and multidisciplinary collaborations. These stories highlighted the impact of putting relationships first and working together, showing how meaningful communication and teamwork can make a genuine difference for our clients and their families. Living out our value of **“Heart for the community,”** we brainstormed ways we can give back beyond our clinic walls. From small acts to bigger initiatives, we're excited about the opportunities ahead to strengthen our connection with the community we serve.



Of course, no team day would be complete without a bit of fun - with games, snacks, and plenty of laughter throughout. It was a great reminder that we truly **thrive through play**, not just in therapy sessions, but as a team as well.

Days like this reinforce that we are **one team** - supporting each other, learning together, and continuing to grow so we can provide the best possible care.

We're excited to carry this energy forward into our work every day.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

National Simultaneous Storytime

- Join children across Australia for the annual National Simultaneous Storytime.
- This year's story is *Luna Roo: The Kangaroo Baller*
- Storytime sessions will be held in the last week of May at various library locations 10:30am - 11:00am.



Mon	25 th May - Miranda
Tue	26 th May - Caringbah
Wed	27 th May - Menai, Sylvania, Kirrawee
Thu	28 th May - Kirrawee
Fri	29 th May - Engadine, Cronulla



Home Practice Fun!

Pink Cat Games

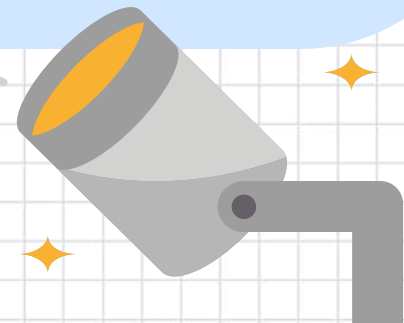
Practice speech sounds, reading, rhyming and more with Pink Cat Games online.

<https://www.pinkcatgames.com/>

- Choose a skill to practice, choose a game and play together.
- It's free!



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FALL INTO TALKING: PARENT TIPS



As the weather cools and the leaves begin to fall, autumn is the perfect time to slow down and connect with your child. Everyday moments - like going for a walk, sharing a snack, or reading a boo - are great opportunities to support your child's communication skills. Here are some simple tips to try at home this season:



Talk about what you see

- Talk about things your child is looking at
- Use short, simple sentences
- Add one or two words to what your child says
- Repeat key words (e.g., leaf, tree, fall)
- Examples:
 - Child: "leaf"
 - Adult: "Red leaf!" → "The leaf is falling!"

Use everyday routines

- Encourage your child to ask for things (e.g., drink, food)
- Pause and wait to give them a chance to respond
- Use simple describing words (hot, cold, big, yummy)
- Talk through steps (first, then, next)
- Example:
 - "What do you want?" (pause)
 - Child: "drink"
 - Adult: "Hot drink. Yummy!"



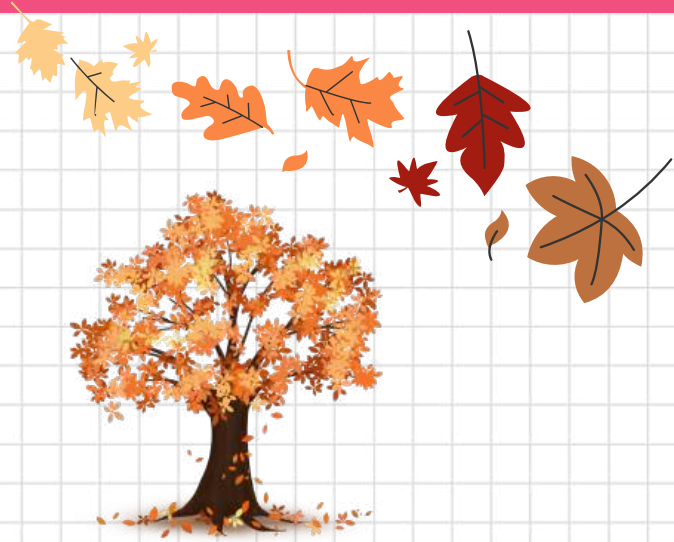
Play + Repeat

- Read the same book or play the same game again
- Use the same simple phrases each time
- Keep language repetitive and predictable
- Encourage your child to join in
- Example:
 - "Turn the page!"
 - "Uh oh!"
 - "Fall down!"

AUTUMN CRAFT: "AUTUMN TREE HANDPRINT"

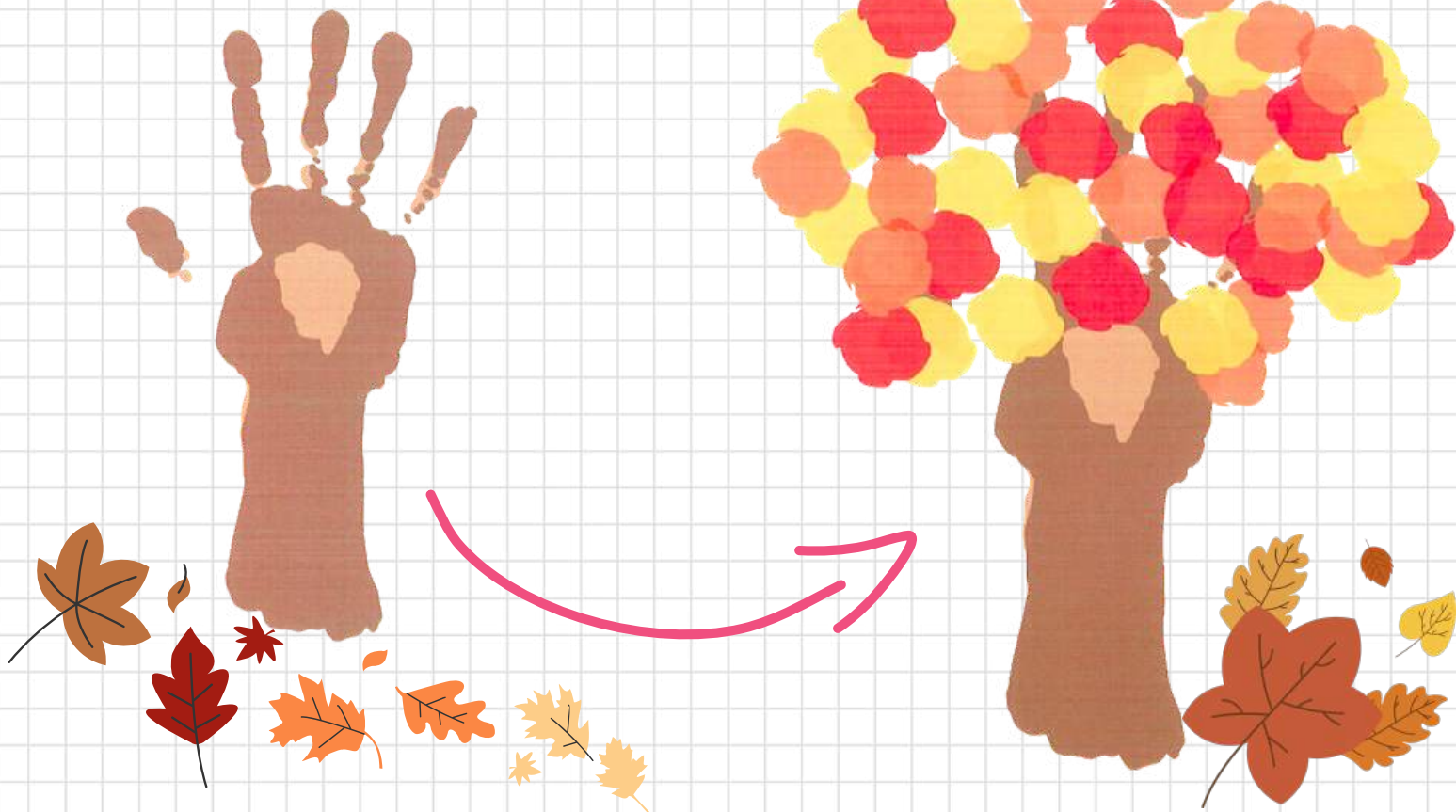
What you'll need:

- Brown, yellow, orange and red paint
- 3 corks
- Paper
- Paintbrush



Instructions:

1. Use the brown paint to print a handprint onto the paper, with the fingers spread out to make the branches of the tree
2. Carefully dip a cork into one of the colours of paint and use this to print leaves onto the branches of the tree
3. Repeat this with the remaining colours of paint, making sure to spread the different colours around all of the branches of the tree
4. Leave the paint to dry



BLOGS

Have you seen our blogs for parents?

For children and adolescents, storytelling is one of the most powerful ways to develop language, communication, and thinking skills.

Read this blog by one of our amazing therapists, Chanelle, about the powerful impact of developing your child's story-telling skills.



[Click here to read this blog](#)

CONNECT WITH US

The team at Speak, Learn and Grow want to stay connected with all members of the community.

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info@speech-learning.com.au