

Please check out
our website at
www.askaspeechie.com.au

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ASK A SPEECHIE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2010

Welcome

Welcome to the September newsletter from Ask a Speechie. I have changed the format to quarterly newsletters but will send out notes and information on any new resources or events in the interim.

We now have story books and games available for purchase. The boards games are aimed at kindergarten to year one (for revision). There is a focus on language/vocabulary development areas such as groups and sub-groups, same and different, things that go together, what things do, where they live and what they look like. Pre-literacy skills are also targeted in terms of syllables, rhyming, initial and final sounds, segmenting and blending sounds in words.

Each board game is based on a

different theme from animals, to transport to clothes. Just to name a few. These games are an excellent way to introduce children to these areas. Visit our website for more information.

Due to unforeseen circumstances there has been a hold up with the workbooks, but the layout will be much improved on the original idea and easier to use. We promise they will be worth the wait!

We have been asked this question a few times and to answer it once and for all, you do not need a referral to see the speech pathologist at Ask a Speechie. For those parents who want to come due to teacher or school nurse concerns, an outline of their concerns can be useful when completing the assessment.

As this issue coincides with the school holidays, we have included a special edition of things that you can do with your children over the school holidays and after to help with language!!

We welcome all feedback and hope to hear from you all soon.

Until next time...

Natalie Harlund

Principal Speech Pathologist



Topic 1: Activities to help with speech and language

Parents often see the activities that Speech Pathologists use and ask "where can we buy that?" Unfortunately, buying resources to work with children can be very expensive, however the good news is that there are activities that can be done at

home to work on language and communication for children.

Activities include:-

When you are unpacking shopping label each item, talk about where the food goes and whether it is a fruit, a vegetable or a meat, is it a cold fruit that belongs in

the fridge or a dry food that belongs in the pantry, is it healthy or a snack etc.

When you are walking outside talk about what you see eg bird, dog, tree, sky, plane, truck, car. Talk about where each object is found, is the bird in a tree or in the water or on the ground, is it a



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big or small tree, you can talk about the fact that the plane is in the sky whereas a car goes on the road, but they both take you places. When your child is getting dressed in the morning talk about what he or she is wearing eg t-shirt, shorts, shoes, socks, hat, underpants. Talk about whether these are summer or winter clothes. What do shoes go with? Do we wear these clothes in the day time or the nighttime? Are the items soft or hard?

What are they made from eg leather, cotton, wool, rubber, metal etc? Books are another excellent source of language. Using picture books we can ask children questions about what is happening in the picture, if they can find objects that match or go together. Parents can talk to children about the pictures and help provide answers for things that they are not sure of. All of these things work on language by looking at

questions such as what an object is called?, what groups or subgroups items belong to? where they are found? what they do? what things go together? what they feel like? what colour, shape or size are they? or what parts they have? Grouping activities can be done by putting together objects such as cars, trucks, dolls, fork, plate, yoyo, pencils, crayons etc and get your children to put things into groups and explaining why the objects

Effective communication and language skills are fundamental to young people's learning, developing social skills and fulfilling their potential."

Ed Balls

Topic 1: Activities to help with speech and language

go together. For example the cars and trucks are transport or take you places, the doll and yoyo are toys or you play with them, the fork and plate are for eating and you can draw or write with pencils and crayons.

These questions can also be used to teach describing and how things are the same or different.

For describing activities,

choose some random objects from around the house and put them into a box or bag.

Get your child/ren to choose an object, then hide it from you. Play a guessing game using the above questions to help you guess what object your child has chosen, with your child answering the questions until you guess the object. Then take a turn

yourself. For younger children, you may give them clues to help them guess what the object is. For older children you may get them to take a turn at asking you the questions. You can play games like "I spy" that get children to find an object in or outside the house, by what it does, what it looks like or where it is found.

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For example I spy with my little eye, or just I spy.. something you use for eating, something you play with, something that is a green fruit and is found in the fridge/a fruit bowl (that is an apple).

To teach same and different, you and your child choose an object each

and lay them down where they can both be seen together.

Ask the questions and see if the answers are the same for the objects or different. For example a teddy and a doll. They may be different because they are different colours, different sizes, they feel different (one

may be hard and the other soft). They may be the same because they both have arms, legs, mouth, nose and eyes. They are both toys, you play with them and they are both found in a bedroom.



Topic 1: Activities to help with story telling or retells

As mentioned in other newsletters, being able to tell a story or retell something that has been done is an important skill for children, as this skill is a prerequisite to writing stories.

This skill can be difficult for some children. Ideas to help a child learn to tell stories and retell events include:-

When a child has made something, talk about the things required to make the object, talk about what they did first, what they did next etc until all the steps are

completed. Then get the child to tell you how they feel about the object they have made.

When children have sleepovers or go for an outing, get them to tell you (or a relative) things such as who was there, where they went, when they went, what they did there. Breaking the information down into these questions is less daunting for some children then just asking what they did as a general question.

This activity can also be made easier by asking the child to tell you one thing they did that

day. Even children who have difficulty with the concept of story telling, will be able to think of one event.

These activities don't just have to be used in the school holidays they can be used on a daily basis. For example when you are setting the table at night, talk about what things you need, what you put down first, then next and then last. Eg we need tablecloth, placemats, napkins, glasses, knives, forks and spoons, salt and pepper and plates.

We can put the tablecloth down, then the placemats, then the forks, knives and spoons, then the glasses, napkins, salt and pepper and plates. We then get the food, put it on the plate and eat it and it tastes delicious. This is a clear sequential story. This activity can be done for getting ready for bed, having a bath or getting dressed in the morning etc.

“Communication is at the heart of child development, be it social, cognitive, emotional or behavioural.” L.S Vygotsky

Our website

Welcome to all our new subscribers and welcome back to the ones that have been there since the beginning.

At Ask A Speechie we are always interested in your opinions and constructive feedback. Please go to our website under Contact Us to get in touch.

Our parents' section has been under construction for a while. We

are hoping to have this updated by end of school holidays.

Please feel free to print out this information and use it with your child. Please note this information should be used as a strategy to help your child and NOT a complete treatment for your child. It is important to contact a speech pathologist if you have any concerns.

You will notice we have a question section. All questions are answered within 24 to 48 hours. We encourage our parents to ask questions (hence our name!!). We are happy to offer free advice.

Sometimes we may not be able to give you a complete answer as some questions depend on family history, your child's history and medical information.

Our website cont..

We will endeavour to answer all questions to the best of our ability.

If anyone has a topic they would like to discuss on our forum, please write it on our forum board and we will get back to you.

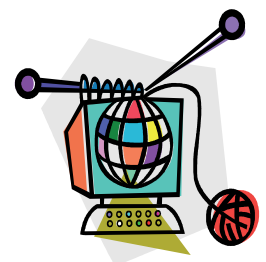
Many people have the same questions and concerns, so please remember there are NO stupid comments or questions.

If there are a number of people

who would like a regular forum time please feed this back to us and we are more than happy to make a time.

Once again our website address is www.askaspeechie.com.au.

We look forward to chatting soon.





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Ask a Speechie is a speech pathology clinic established January 2010. We work with children from 3 years of age to end of primary school in areas such as language, literacy, articulation, stuttering, comprehension, pre-literacy skills and story telling.

We offer treatment and assessment to suit your child's needs and are one to one. Please contact us for more details.

www.askaspeechie.com.au

New Catalogue: Chatterbug Books and Resources

Chatterbug Books and Resources is the product side of Ask A Speechie. If you wish to ask about any of the products you can contact us on 9438 1969 or by e-mail on mail@askaspeechie.com.au.

A catalogue of current products available for sale is now available. If anyone would like a copy of the catalogue, please contact us at mail@askaspeechie.com.au and we will get a copy out to you as soon as possible.

