



MELBOURNE CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAMS SEPTEMBER 2017

We are excited that another school holiday period is just around the corner because it means that we will be having two fun filled weeks of social skills groups.



How are the groups formed?

We get to know as much about your child as possible so we can match children of similar ages with similar goals to ensure that your child makes great progress with their communication and interaction skills.

What are the program benefits?

Each school holidays Melbourne Child Development (MCD) runs social skills groups that deliver the unique opportunity for your child to work on their individually tailored goals within the supported environment of a group. They are something fun for your child to look forward to in the school holidays.

What are the outcomes?

The social skills groups help children to improve their communication with peers at school and develop important social interaction skills typical of everyday playground and classroom interaction.

SIBLINGS CLUB

To help siblings feel special and to help you get the most out of the parent coaching session, a "siblings club" is held for brothers and sisters during the 30 minute parent meeting time each day.

DATES & TIMES

Week 1: Monday September 25th – Thursday September 28th

Week 2: Monday October 2nd – Thursday October 5th 2017

Time: Each daily session runs from 9.00am – 11.00am, with a parent feedback and coaching session from 10.30am -11.00am



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR MOST RECENT

SECRET AGENT SOCIETY GRADUATES

The team at MCD would like to congratulate the most recent group of Secret Agent Society cadets who successfully graduated from the program in June 2017.

We are very proud of how far these cadets have come in cracking the code of social and emotional communication, and know that they will go on to do great things with their new toolbox full of social skills strategies.

The next group of Secret Agent Society cadets will be starting in February 2018, with assessments for the program being held now.



SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK 2017

Speech Pathology week has just ended for 2017 and we are reflecting on the important and relevant theme this year-



COMMUNICATION ACCESS: EVERYONE GETS THE MESSAGE!

WHAT IS COMMUNICATION ACCESS?

Communication access is about creating a world where people with communication difficulties can communicate successfully with everyone, a world where everyone gets the message. Communication access involves greater awareness and understanding of communication disability within our community, and for all of us to learn how to interact with people with communication disability. Communication is a basic human right and we need to do more to facilitate communication access, just like we do for mobility access. Speech Pathology Australia estimates that over 1.1 million Australians (approximately 5% of the population) have a communication disorder.



SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK 2017

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



WAYS TO HELP

- Rephrase your questions into simple language
- Speak slowly for children
- Give extra time or use pictures

- Write or draw your question
- Use gestures or symbols to help
- Train staff in the workplace
- Above all, always treat the person with dignity and respect.



How you help depends on the communication difficulty.
Here are some extra tips from Speech Pathology Australia:

tips to help COMMUNICATE...

Listen carefully

be welcoming
and friendly



do use...

sign and gesture
symbols
plain english

○ Understand there are **MANY WAYS** to communicate

○ Avoid **LOUD LOCATIONS**, find a **QUIET PLACE**

YES
If you are having difficulty understanding them - ask the person yes or no questions
NO

○ Ask the person to **REPEAT** or try another approach if you don't understand

○ Check that you have **UNDERSTOOD** them correctly

○ If you ask a question, **WAIT** for the person to reply, **BE PATIENT**

○ There is no need for you to raise your voice or slow your speech – **SPEAK NATURALLY.**



NDIS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has begun to roll out in parts of Victoria and is providing families and their children with greater access to services through funding

Who is eligible?



To become an NDIS participant you must meet the 'Access requirements', a set of guidelines which outlines details about age, residency, disability, and/or early intervention status. An excellent checklist is available on the NDIS website to see whether your child may be eligible for NDIS funding

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist.html>

When can I access NDIS funding?



Where you live in Melbourne will determine when you are able to access NDIS funding. The roll-out dates for each region of Melbourne can be found at <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/VIC.html>. Some areas of the city already have access to NDIS funding, for example North East Melbourne was rolled out in June 2017.

If your child meets the 'Access requirements' (see above) then you can submit your application up to 6 months before the roll out date for your area.

What is the next step?



The NDIS has partnered with local area coordinators to assist families in beginning their journey. These coordinators act as liaisons between families and the NDIS.

Each area of Melbourne has a different coordinator who can provide assistance and advice with funding applications, and support following funding approval.

Check who your local area coordinator will be by visiting

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/VIC.html#LAC> and contacting them directly for further information.

How can Melbourne Child Development help with your application?



In order to assess whether each child meets the Access requirements for disability or early intervention, the NDIS may require evidence of what the child's disability is, how long it may last, and how it may impacts on their life. There may be a role for your Speech Pathologist to provide a letter of support or recommendation based upon their work with and knowledge of your child. The NDIS will indicate what your will require from which health care professionals.



NDIS FAQ - CONTINUED

Can we use our NDIS funding with Melbourne Child Development?



Families who have the ability to 'self-manage' their funding through an agency are able to use their NDIS funding with us.

Are the fees different?



MCD fees will remain the same. The NDIS plan that is formulated for your child may include a price cap for individual therapy sessions. If the price cap does not cover the entire cost of MCD session fees, there will be a gap payment that families will pay out of pocket. In many cases, if there is a gap payment, the amount is usually small; however this can only be determined once the unique NDIS plan has been made.

For more information



The NDIS website provides a lot of valuable information and resources <https://www.ndis.gov.au/>, or you can contact their information line to speak with one of their helpful staff 1800 800 110.

If you have any questions regarding the NDIS, your child, and what it will mean for service at Melbourne Child Development, contact Georgie or Marietha at reception on 03 9890 1062 for more information.

CONTACT US

To stay up to date with all the programs and information at the Practice, find us on Facebook



If you would like any further information on any of the above programs or resources, please contact our Practice to speak with Marietha or Georgie at reception, or to arrange a time to speak with one of our Speech Pathologists.



Our modern and newly renovated Practice rooms are located at 834 Canterbury Road, Box Hill South, 3128



Call us on 03 9890 1061



Car parking available in our on site carpark



info@melbournechilddevelopment.com.au



www.melbournechilddevelopment.com.au