



17/3/2010

Therapies for Kids

NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome!

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Hopefully you are all settling into the new year and school happily!

At Therapies for Kids we recently had our Mothers Wine and Cheese night, which was a big hit, with around 20 mothers joining Debbie and Prue for nibbles, drinks. Once there, mums were able to network and share tips.

Debbie spent a few days in New Zealand at the beginning of the month at Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine 5th Biennial Conference.

We have also welcomed Prue's Boston university Student... who will be joining us for the next six weeks.

Also, a very big welcome to Amanda Simon who is our new Speech Pathologist and will be working Tuesdays!

As a reminder, if you are looking to buy toys, check out www.IQtoys.com, www.judius.com

Also, with the school holidays coming up, make sure you book in any appointments that you might want and cancel any that coincide with holiday plans, this makes everyone's lives a little easier!

Thanks and hopefully we'll see you soon, The Therapies for Kids Team

Debbie's trip to New Zealand

After a shaky start (one needs a current passport to travel overseas) I went to the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine 5th Biennial Conference, "Getting a Good Start." The Conference was well attended with delegates from around the world.

The most interesting talks for me were those using functional MRI's that showed the way the brain can develop new pathways. Within this is the fact that the brain begins to organise synapses like an adult brain until 8,so they were advocating intense therapy before this. The other interesting issue was the continuing controversy over management of the hemiplegic arm.

The latest thoughts have been constraint therapy but at this conference the research from England was promoting bimanual use and also constant surveillance of the skills in the 'good' arm. I came back with some new ideas and also reinforcement of my therapy ideas by current research. Look forward to sharing it with you all.

Welcome to our new Boston University Student, Mandy!

We have a new intern in our offices from Boston University in America.

Mandy will be joining Prue and learning all about Occupational Therapy for the next six weeks, so if you see her around make sure you say hello!



New Speech Therapist, Amanda Simon arrives!

A very big welcome to Amanda Simon who is our new,

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST!

Amanda is from Child Think and is trained in kids Speech Pathology. She will be working in the Annandale offices on Tuesdays all day.

If you wish to book in with Amanda, please talk to your therapist or reception and they will get in touch with her

Reception will not be making her appointments, however will make sure that she gets in contact with you as soon as possible in order to book your child in.

Prue's Typing tips

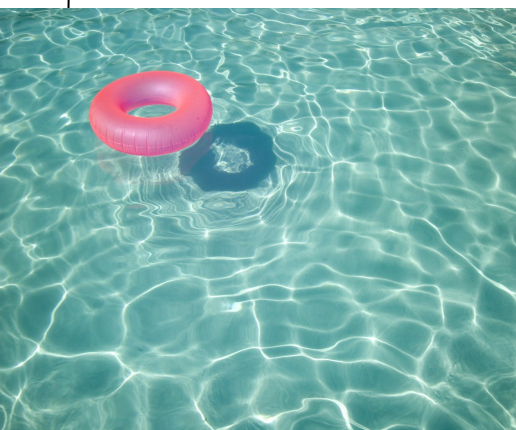
If your child has or has not got difficulties with handwriting it is a good idea to start to think about their typing skills. It is becoming more relevant to everyday schooling and it is a good idea that your child begin to develop the skills for proficient typing skills for assignments, in class work and possibly examinations as early as possible. For most, typing should not be a 'replacement' for handwriting and I feel very strongly about continuing to develop strength, endurance and ease for handwriting for these children however for some children with physical difficulties and those who have difficulties with pain, fatigue, planning and/or impaired speed, typing



and computer skills are a necessity to their successful participation at school and for future examinations .

For children in infants school I would recommend playing some simple literacy and mouse skills games that you can purchase in shops or find online for free at many child related sites. Typing a simple piece of news and their name in an email to a relative is also a great way to familiarise them with the keyboard. From grade 3 its a good idea to start more formal (but fun) typing skills. There are a number of 'learn to type' programs available for free online or for purchase from software shops. The cheap or free ones can be good and worth a try but I recommend Typequick Kewala touchtyping program. It's a bit quirky but not too boring, there are also no 'games' that distract or are impossible to win, instead the program is a journey around Australia. Font type and size can be changed and the desired word per minute speed can be set lower than most. It is also fine to use for one or two finger typing, although obviously 'cheating' with the touch typing requirement. Good luck with your typing everyone!

Sydney University Swimming Lessons



Sydney University swimming pool will be offering a learn to swim program for kids with special needs.

The pool, which is situated in Camperdown hopes to offer classes at minimum cost for students with extra physical needs.

Please leave your name at reception if you are interested.

Companion Cards

What are these?

Companion Cards are issued to people with “significant, permanent disability, who can demonstrate that they are unable to access most community activities and venues without attendant care support.”

How do I apply?

You will need to fill out a form from Companion Cards, which you can obtain either from our offices or off their website. You will need to have your therapist fill out a sign one section and you will also

need a passport photo, which will be printed on the card. You must be eligible under their guidelines.

What does it entitle me to?

Participating organizations will waive the fee for parents or carers of the cardholder when entering or attending events. It is an initiative that aims to support carers of people with disabilities in accessing community activities and events.

More information:

Phone: 1300 305 620

Visit: www.companioncard.org.au

Key Dates

March 25th– Bek away
 April 1st– School Holidays Start
 April 2nd– Good Friday
 April 5th– Easter Monday
 April 19th– Term 2 Starts
 April 22nd– Bek back
 April 26th– ANZAC Holiday

When are therapists In Rooms?

Debbie:	Prue	Bek
• Monday	• Tuesday	• Tuesday
• Tuesday	• Thursday	• Friday
• Wednesday Morning	• Friday Morning	• Every Second Saturday
• Thursday	• Every Second Saturday	Sylvia
• Every Second Saturday		• Saturdays



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