

Literacy and Numeracy Programs

Children in Learning Links' Literacy and Numeracy programs often experience difficulties with expressive and/or receptive language, phonemic awareness, comprehension and written expression. Speech Pathologists consult with our specialist teaching staff to assist children's learning needs in a multidisciplinary approach.

Consultation and Collaboration with Schools

Learning Links' Speech Pathologists seek to work in close collaboration with schools to maximise outcomes for children. Our Speech Pathologists are available to work in schools, providing therapy, assessments and consultation. Schools can contact their local branch to organise appropriate services.

Professional Development

Professional Development is available to schools and organisations. Please contact your local branch or Head Office to discuss your needs.

Fees

Learning Links' fee brochure for School Age Services is available from your local branch. There are fee discounts for members of Learning Links. As a charity, Learning Links keeps fees as low as possible and raises money to help reduce fees. Further fee discounts may be available for member families with Pensioner Concession or Family Health Care Cards issued by Centrelink and those families experiencing financial hardship (application and proof of income required).

Anyone can become a member of Learning Links and support children who have difficulty learning. Membership gives you access to our specialist services and supports the future of our children. Parents of children accessing Learning Links' services pay our special Parent Member Fee (\$20 per year incl GST). Other membership rates are available on request. Corporate sponsors and donations are also welcome. Learning Links is a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible and receipted.

Learning Links Head Office

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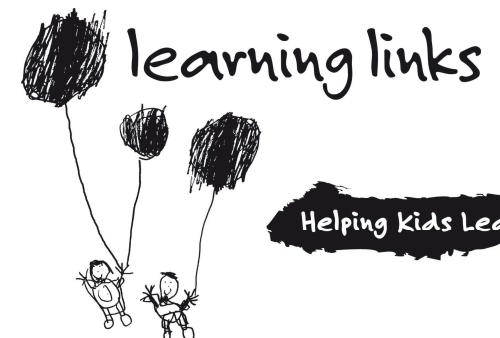
www.learninglinks.org.au
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Learning Links

- For services for children from 0 to 6 years, please ring Peakhurst Service Centre.
- For services for school age children 4 - 18 years, please ring your local branch.
- For services for families, please ring your local branch.
- For all other enquiries, please ring Head Office.

School Age Services Speech and Language Pathology

Assessment Program
Therapy Program
Professional Development



Does your child have difficulty understanding you and following your directions?

Can your child clearly tell you what they want to say?

Does your child understand what they read or have trouble writing or organising their work or other activities?

Speech Pathologists help children with speech, language or learning difficulties.

Children who have difficulty learning may have a difficulty with speech and language that can be helped with therapy.

Learning Links' Speech Pathologists work collaboratively with the child, parents/carers, specialist teachers, psychologists, occupational therapists, counsellors and other professionals to help children reach their full potential.

Our Speech Pathologists utilise a variety of specialist strategies and programs — adapted to the individual learning needs of the child.

What do these terms mean?

Expressive Language involves the use of written and oral language, semantics and syntax. Semantic skills include understanding and using vocabulary and the relationships between words. Syntax involves oral and written grammar, sentence construction and sequencing language.

Receptive Language involves the understanding of language, auditory processing and comprehension. Auditory processing involves listening, following instructions, understanding concepts such as before, after and memory. Comprehension is acquiring meaning from text.

Pragmatic Language involves the social conventions of language. This includes conversational skills, eye contact, voice volume, interpretation of body language, asking and answering questions, commenting, humour and understanding the rules of language.

Articulation involves the production of speech sounds (lisps, dyspraxia).

Stuttering involves disruptions to speech fluency (blocks, prolongations and repetitions).

Voice involves difficulties in voice quality, pitch or volume.

How can Speech Pathology help?

A comprehensive assessment is an important first step. Our detailed assessment reports identify a child's strengths and weaknesses, including recommendations for intervention and relevant strategies for the classroom and home.

Speech and Language Assessment

Areas assessed include receptive and expressive language, pragmatic skills, articulation, phonemic awareness, stuttering and voice.

Language and Literacy Assessment

Areas assessed include receptive and expressive language, pragmatic skills, phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, reading accuracy, spelling and written expression.

Therapy Program

Learning Links' Speech Pathologists offer individual and group therapy sessions for children with speech, language and learning difficulties. Small group sessions have no more than three children; group sessions have no more than six. Learning Links' therapists can also provide services to children referred by their general practitioner to Medicare Australia for therapy support through an Enhanced Primary Care Plan.

Specialist Therapy Programs

Learning Links regularly develops innovative group therapy programs. These specialist programs focus on specific skill areas and operate during school term and holiday periods. Specialist group programs can be developed in response to requests from schools and professionals based on identified needs.