

Parentlink

Telethon
Speech & Hearing 
Linking parents and families to news
at Telethon Speech & Hearing

ISSUE 36 | TERM 1, 2020



TSH families are
enjoying our newly
renovated nature
playground!



Parentlink

Term 1, 2020

Our purpose

As experts in our field, we excel in bringing together services to support children and families to speak, hear, connect and learn, in ways that empower them to live fulfilling lives.

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Mark Fitzpatrick

Principal

Janene Hall

Deputy Principal - Outpost

Geoff Reader

Deputy Principal - Talkabout

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Dates for Your Diary

What your family can look forward to this year!

MARCH

25

▶ **MUM'S NIGHT**
EVENT POSTPONED

APRIL

03

▶ **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**
NEW School Holiday period 03/04 - 28/04

28

▶ **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**
eLearning begins

30

▶ **QV1 URBAN DESCENT**
EVENT POSTPONED

MAY

06

▶ **MAINSTREAM TEACHER WORKSHOP**
EVENT POSTPONED

10

▶ **MOTHER'S DAY**

12

▶ **NAPLAN TESTING**
Testing CANCELLED for 2020

JUNE

02

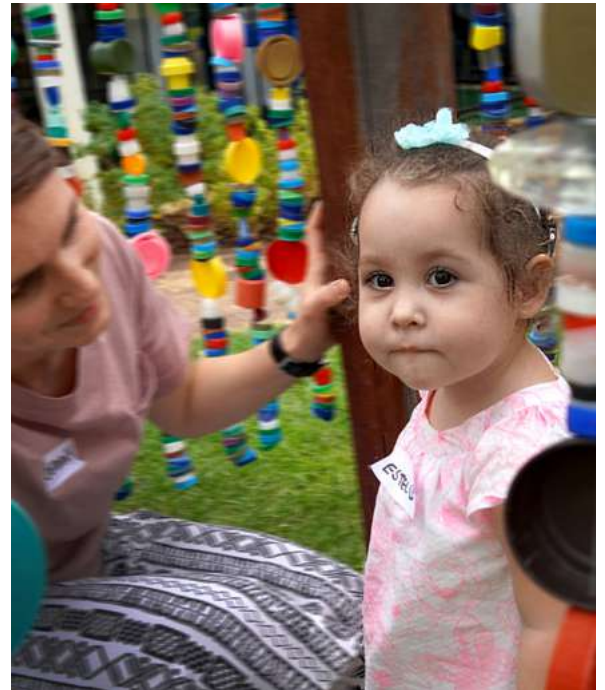
▶ **FAMILY INFORMATION
NIGHT**



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IMPORTANT UPDATES regarding coronavirus (COVID-19)

Telethon Speech & Hearing regards the safety of our team, our families, our students/clients and guests who access our services as our highest priority. As such, we want to take every precaution to limit the spread of the Coronavirus.

All parents and carers are advised to check their email inboxes for important information regarding how to access our services at this time, and read this newsletter to learn how we're keeping everyone safe.

This is an everchanging environment with new information released daily. We will continue to look at ways to support our families and clients in any way possible. Frequent updates will be posted to our website:

www.tsh.org.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19-important-health-safety-update

For official medical advice and information on coronavirus (COVID-19) in Australia, please refer to the Department of Health website www.health.gov.au or call 1800 020 080.



Message From Our CEO

Term One updates from Mark Fitzpatrick



Wow, what a difference a term makes!

At the start of this year we were thrilled with what 2020 was going to bring for our families, our staff and our organisation. We, along with many others, never thought we would be looking to see how we can support families in the situation of a pandemic.

During these times, TSH remains committed to ensuring families and children with hearing, speech and language difficulties are fully supported. This work includes providing you with information and resources to keep language and literacy growing throughout this time of social distancing.

We have been privileged to be part of your lives and your child(ren)'s lives. For some families we have become an important part of the support, assistance, routine, and guidance you receive. We are also acutely aware that families we support will not be immune to the impact of COVID-19. Our role is to support you during this time. Our staff love doing it. This will continue to apply if your circumstances change. If they do, please just contact us, let us know what you are facing or how we can help and we will look to be as flexible as possible to meet your needs.

We will keep communities with you throughout these times and once things have returned to normal.

Parentlink will continue to be written every term with stories from our centre and surrounding community.

Online, we will continue to provide you with shared stories and information through our website and social media accounts ([@telethonspeechhearing](https://www.instagram.com/telethonspeechhearing)).

We encourage you as families, to share your stories, your experiences, your challenges and your successes, with us.

In a world of so much uncertainty, let's all make TSH a safe and resilient place to be.

Ways to stay connected:

Read Parentlink

Visit our website
www.tsh.org.au/latest-news

Share your stories and experiences with us through Direct Messages/ Facebook/Instagram, [@telethonspeechhearing](https://www.instagram.com/telethonspeechhearing)

Continue communicating with your child's Therapist/ Teacher/Family Liaison - we're still here to help you!



Our entire team is working hard to support your family through this outbreak.



Schools Update

Updated term dates - the last day of Term One will be Friday, April 3

PLEASE NOTE THAT FRIDAY, 3RD APRIL WILL BE THE LAST DAY OF TERM ONE FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ALL OF OUR WEMBLEY-BASED CLASSES AND PROGRAMS.

We are shortening our Term One dates as per the State Government's announcements regarding introducing new learning arrangements for Western Australian schools to help manage the COVID-19 pandemic. All of our Talkabout programs will finish one week early, on Friday April 3. From April 6 on, our teachers, therapists and education assistants will be busy preparing to provide online programs for term two, to prepare for an education that may be a combination of physical school settings and online education.

Fee paying families will see a discounted rate on their fee invoices for term two, to take into account this reduction of one week in group sessions. Your teachers and therapists will stay in touch to let you know how the learning will roll out as we move towards this digital platform.

Please contact us or your teacher if the above situation impacts your family as TSH will endeavour to support you in this transition.

Our teaching staff and program leaders are continuing to work on additional teletherapy and remote learning resources as ongoing disruptions occur. Again, please keep an eye on your email inboxes, our website, and social media pages as we will update you as progress is made.







NEW Options to Learn & Connect

***Additional Teletherapy options and hygiene protections are now available.
From our Principal, Janene Hall***

Dear families,

While we appreciate there is a lot of information being circulated about Coronavirus (COVID-19) at the moment, we believe we need to keep you informed of updates at TSH.

The health of our students, families and staff is our priority, and we are taking prudent steps to limit the spread of the virus. Our teams are having daily discussions, seeking regular advice from officials and are in communication across our network to ensure we are informed with up to date information.

School and Services Still Open

As been discussed in some parts of the media there are a range of views about whether schools should close immediately to prevent a spread of the virus or whether schools should not close without extremely good reason due to the flow on impact to families including financial, logistical and overall wellness.

We are an Independent School, as well as a therapy provider and a health provider. As such we are registered under and are answerable to the Department of Education and Department of Health. We operate under the auspice of the Minister and for this particular situation are only able to close under directive from the Health Department.

As such, our therapy, classroom and school-based programs will continue to run as normal until April 3, with extra precautions around hygiene and personal care being taken in order to keep every child, family and staff member safe.

Online Alternatives for Families

TSH is now offering teletherapy (services online) for families wishing to access one-on-one therapies at home. Services currently available for teletherapy are:

- ▶ Speech Pathology,
- ▶ Auditory-Verbal Therapy,
- ▶ Audiology, and
- ▶ Occupational Therapy.

Teletherapy is available to existing and new families. Please contact us to learn how your child can access these services (and still receive funding from the NDIS).

Hygiene and Personal Care

We will continue to have discussions with children, our staff, and our visitors about some of the hygiene measures to help limit the spread of the virus:

- ▶ Washing hands often with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand rub,
- ▶ Covering your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze - then disposing the used tissue immediately,

- ▶ Avoiding close contact with others, including hugging.

Children Feeling Unwell

Particularly at this time, we ask that all children who are not feeling well are kept at home. While that illness may have nothing to do with the virus, we are trying to limit any susceptibility to it.

Travel

The Government has now placed a 14 day self-isolation period on anyone entering Australia. Please let us know if this applies to you. We ask anyone who has recently travelled or plans to travel to get in touch with us.

Keeping You Updated

As you know, this is an everchanging environment with new information released daily. We will continue to look at ways to support our families and clients in any way possible.

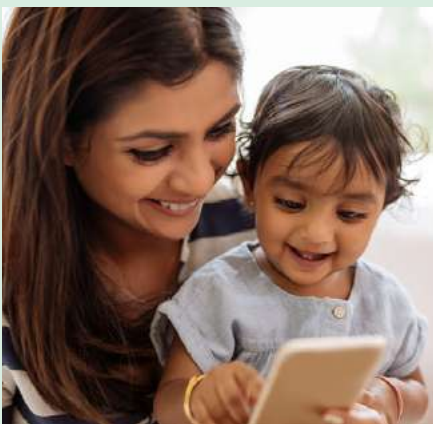
If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. Check your email inboxes, visit our website and engage with us on social media - we will keep you informed as new information arises through this challenging time.

- ▶ speech@tsh.org.au
- ▶ www.tsh.org.au
- ▶ [@telethonspeechhearing](https://www.facebook.com/telethonspeechhearing)



How Do I Start Teletherapy?

How to continue receiving expert advice in supporting your child's speech, hearing, literacy and language development - online!



TSH remains committed to supporting your child learn to speak, hear, connect and learn. During these uncertain times, we will continue to provide vital support to your child and family offering early intervention via Teletherapy.

Here are some FAQs around how Teletherapy works and ways your child can get started today:

How does teletherapy work and how long is a session?

Teletherapy is the online delivery of therapy services, over the internet, through a live video connection.

Teletherapy is very similar to what a child receives in a face-to-face session; it's just done using a computer or mobile device. If you've ever used Skype on your computer or FaceTime on your iPhone, you've already used a similar type of technology!

A session will run the same amount of time as a normal face-to-face session, with guidance from a TSH therapist the entire time.

What services can my child and family receive online?

Services currently available for teletherapy are:

- ▶ Speech Pathology,
- ▶ Auditory-Verbal Therapy,
- ▶ Audiology, and
- ▶ Occupational Therapy.

What resources will I need at home to access teletherapy services?

You will need an internet connection and personal computer or mobile device with audio and video capabilities. An advantage of teletherapy sessions are that they are held in the comfort and safety of your own home. TSH therapists can use the toys and resources you already have at home to complete each session.

I'm not very good with technology. Is teletherapy easy to set up?

Yes, TSH uses simple software that is compatible with most computers and mobile devices that have audio and video capabilities. You can use an iPad, iPhone, or any other brand of tablet/smart device. Our therapists will guide you

through the entire process and provide you with simple instructions to help you get started.

How much does teletherapy cost?

Please contact TSH to discuss payment options, including fitting this into your child's NDIS plan.

Can I access teletherapy under my NDIS plan?

Yes, our teletherapy services can be funded under your current NDIS plan.

Can I receive teletherapy for group sessions?

Yes, TSH is currently working on this services for families. We will keep you informed as new information arises.

How do I make a teletherapy appointment?

There are a number of ways to start teletherapy at TSH:

- ▶ **Ask your current TSH therapist/teacher about getting started.**
- ▶ **Make an appointment online at:** www.tsh.org.au/appointment-request.
- ▶ **Email speech@tsh.org.au or call us on 9387 9888.**

Please contact TSH for further questions and enquiries.



Welcome the the Family

Our most attended family barbeque ever!

Telethon Speech and Hearing's annual Family BBQ was held on Friday 21st February. It was a beautiful, relaxed and warm evening with groups of families from all three programs – Talkabout, Chatterbox and Outpost enjoying the barbeque and socializing with other families.

In total we had 150 people, 30 staff members attend and 250 sausages consumed. This was the largest group we have ever seen come together for this event. It was lovely to see everyone smiling and making new friends. The children loved being able to enjoy the playground and run around with their classmates.

It was a pleasure to see families and staff from across each of the three programs come together and enjoy the evening. Thank you to everyone that came and to the staff for all their help in cooking and serving the sausages for making the night a success.

See you next year!





Annual Family Survey

What families had to say about our services in 2019

Each year TSH conducts a family survey to ensure we continue to provide excellent services that are meeting the needs of you and your family.

During 2019, approximately half of TSH families (137 families) participated in the survey. The results of these surveys guide us in continually improving all that we do.

Our 2019 survey data indicated that the vast majority of families were either highly satisfied or satisfied with our programs, and the progress their child was making and felt supported by the

staff. Almost all families (80%) agreed that TSH staff are approachable and professional. The majority of the families were also either satisfied or highly satisfied with our administrative services and facilities.

This positive feedback is incredibly uplifting to our teams and we appreciate all families who took the time to express both positive and constructive feedback to us.

A full report on our findings and action plan based on your feedback will be available very soon.



2019 Survey Overall Findings

Some key figures across Chatterbox, Outpost, Talkabout and Talkabout Literacy:



98.8%

of families reported that our programs were meeting their child's individual learning needs.



97.1%

of families indicated their satisfaction with the progress that their child was making.



98.3%

of families expressed that the teaching staff in their programs were approachable and professional.



93.5%

of families felt supported by the program staff.



International Women's Day

Working to forge more positive actives towards #EachforEqual

March 8 marked International Women's Day, a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The world has made unprecedented advances, but no country has achieved gender equality.

The IWD 2020 campaign theme is drawn from a notion of 'Collective Individualism': *We are all parts of a whole. Our individual actions, conversations, behaviours and mindsets can have an impact on our larger society. Collectively, we can make change happen. Collectively, we can each help to create a gender equal world. We can all choose to be #EachforEqual.*

With a majority of our staff being female, Telethon Speech & Hearing is proud to help bring light on this important occasion and draw attention to a number of International Women's Day MISSIONS including celebrating women's achievements, and working to forge more positive action towards #EachforEqual and #EachforEquity.

From March 8-13 Telethon Speech & Hearing highlighted a number of incredible women in our organisation who

bring compassion, wisdom and strength to their roles and make our centre such a delightful place for our families and children.

Gather some inspiration and take a read of our wonderful stories online!

www.tsh.org.au/news/international-womens-day





Nature Playground Complete!

Updated outdoor play spaces available for children and families to enjoy

The Chatterbox Playgroup Families were delighted to return to TSH this year to find the early intervention playground transformed and refreshed.

The children have been enjoying the opportunities the playground offers, to balance, climb, clamber, slide, and explore the revamped slide and fort. The new stepping stones and beams have provided the chance to develop the children's ability to judge distance and become familiar with different heights while practising their balancing skills.

Everyone has been loving watering the new trees and plants with jugs and spray bottles of water from our water trolley, and the new kitchen area has

been a flurry of activity with children concocting wonderful dishes of leaves and seed pods, mud pies and even some elaborate flower arrangements.

The kitchen area was recently enhanced with a mural by artist James Giddy, depicting a willy wagtail (a well-loved resident in our TSH playground!) and some lovely gum leaves to bring the garden into the area.

Collectively, the efforts of our Maintenance Manager, Dave, NGCS funding, and the team from Natureplay Solutions have given our playground a wonderful lift and have inspired the hearts and minds of our families. We would all like to say a huge and heart felt thank you to all involved!



Artist James Giddy painting our walls with his beautiful native mural.



Our nature
playground
is all ready
for play!





Parent Parking

A note on school parking and safety

Over recent years, we have carefully developed the parking and drive-through arrangements for parents who transport their students to school by car, so that all students, parents and staff are safe at all times. Please keep all children safe by driving carefully along Dodd St and keeping the Playground entrance gate fully shut.

If there are no parking spaces available in the designated TSH Parent carpark, parents are asked to drive carefully and park outside this gated area - along Dodd St - then escort your child in to school.

We are also planning to assign more 'TSH Parents Only' parking bays at Wembley, during busier days. This area will be past our main reception building, towards Lake Monger. Look out for the signs that we place in front of that carpark on those days.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Our objective is to make every morning drop off and afternoon collection safe and stress-free for everyone.

Swim Thru Perth 101

Highlights from this year's historic 101st swim!

Despite gusty winds that caused waters to be a bigger challenge for all swimmers, it was another successful year for the Swim Thru Perth and TSH.

Proudly presented by Nigel Satterley AM, thanks to the incredible efforts of participants, volunteers and everyone involved, over \$15,000 was raised from this historic 101-year-old swimming race!

TSH was delighted to be part of the fun and activities that ran in the water and up on the reserve at Matilda Bay. We even had a special visit from Fat Cat which really excited both children and adults who came along!

TSH gives special thanks to Nigel Satterley AM from Satterley Property Group, Seven West Media, Adrian Barich, Sealink, Claremont Masters Swimming Group, Telethon7 and all other corporate partners for generously contributing to this year's swim. See page 15 for event photos.

Until next year's big splash!



Channel 7's
Adrian Barich
hanging out with
Fat Cat!



Gusty winds didn't stop
these avid swimmers!



CEOs juggling their
inflatable animals in the
Captain Cook Cruises
100m Dash!



Library Donations

*Thinking of donating books to our library?
Please read this before you do!*

TSH is grateful for all gifts of new or gently-used books, DVDs and music that we receive. As the only dedicated library for families and young children impacted by hearing, speech and language difficulties, our librarian Julie shares her recommendations for books that are most ideal to donate to us:

- ▶ **Hardback books** - these last longer and don't require covering
- ▶ **Books with a good narrative** - every good story has a start, middle, and an end. This means the story has:
 - » A clear setting (including characters, place, time)
 - » A problem/starting event (an event or issue that starts the story)
 - » Character reactions to the problem, and their plan(s) of how to respond to the problem
 - » Attempts to solve problem (sometimes plans don't work!)
 - » Consequences of these attempts to solve the problem (what happens next?)
 - » Resolution to the problem (often with some kind of message or lesson that has been learnt)
- ▶ **Sensory books** that include lights, sounds, touch elements
- ▶ **Funny books** like 'Elephant and Piggie' by Mo Willems
- ▶ **Social and emotional books**, particularly with stories discussing feelings, friendship etc.
- ▶ **Toilet training books!**
- ▶ **Star Wars** - children and adults like these!
- ▶ **Toys** - Plastic baby sized dolls, Duplo, posting toys.

Please take your book and toy donations into TSH during opening hours and speak with a staff member. You can also take books directly to Julie in our library - her working days are Monday, Thursday and Friday.

