

Parentlink

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

ISSUE 42 | TERM 3, 2021



WINNERS FROM TELETHON SPEECH & HEARING'S 32ND POWER OF SPEECH!



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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Principal

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Deputy Principal - Outpost

Geoff Reader

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Dates for Your Diary

What your family can look forward to this year!

SEPTEMBER

02

LAST DAY OF TERM 3

School Holiday period 25/09 - 10/10

OCTOBER

05

WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

Thanking all teachers for everything they do!

11

FIRST DAY OF TERM 4

For all Wembley-based programs

15

INTERNATIONAL DLD DAY

Raising awareness of Developmental Language Disorder

16

TELETHON WEEKEND

WA's biggest fundraising weekend! From 16/10-17/10

22

LOUD SHIRT DAY!

#WearItLoud in support of children who are deaf

Loud Shirt Day
22nd October 2021

Join the fun and #WearItLoud
for WA children who are deaf

Telethon
Speech & Hearing

Sign up today!
tsh.org.au

Proudly supported by telethon The West Australian



Telethon Speech & Hearing acknowledges and thanks all individuals and organisations for their support of our centre, including: Channel 7 Telethon Trust, Channel 7 and The West Australian.



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Education Assistants Appreciation Week

National Education Assistants' Day is an awareness day taking place on 16 September.

This special week is an opportunity for schools to acknowledge and celebrate the important contribution education assistants (or teacher aides) make to student learning and wellbeing.

Here at Telethon Speech & Hearing, a special morning tea was prepared for Education Assistants in our team, with an indulgent spread of cinnamon scrolls and sweet treats!



Message From Our CEO

Term Three updates from Mark Fitzpatrick



In all school environments Term 3 is a period of high energy, with a lot of activity throughout the term for all staff and students. Telethon Speech & Hearing is no different. It has been a term that seems to have flown by and it is hard to believe that we are only three short months away from Christmas and the end of the year. This year Term 3 has seen us celebrate our students at the Power of Speech, have a lot of fun in Book Week, and embrace practitioners from an array of organisations and practitioners who engage with or refer to us.

Power of Speech

From humble beginnings, the Power of Speech Awards is our favourite event of the year. Now in its 32nd year, this concept from TSH has developed into an international event with children as far away as the UK also holding such awards. For us, this year we saw 22 children aged between 6 and 12 give a 3 to 5 minute presentation to around 200 people. It was the most uplifting and inspiring event that illustrated the brilliance of children and the wonderful support they receive from the TSH team. The development of each child over the past 12 months has been extraordinary!! Well done to all involved.

Research Informing Our Practice

At TSH we always want to make sure that what we do has a strong evidence base and leads contemporary practice.

Each time we look to engage in a piece of research with a university, families will be asked if they would like their child to participate in that study (with data being de-identified). We do this so we can support all families accessing our services to get the best possible outcome for your child and for our future service delivery.

Ordinarily, research takes up to 17 years from its commencement to a practical application. At TSH we can be a lot more nimble, learning from each piece of research we are involved in. This enables us to validate and/or make improvements to our programs. Our recent research into language disorders and motor skill development, as an example, reinforces the importance of the occupational therapy component of our programs and highlighted that there is more of a link with receptive language development than what we had anticipated.

Engaging with Practitioners

We pride ourselves on creating great relationships and working collaboratively with other providers to support families having their needs met. Part of this also includes the TSH team delivering professional development for professionals and interested members of the community, namely mainstream teachers, early childhood educators, speech therapists, audiologists and even GPs. Recently, TSH hosted two sessions: one for early years educators from the

Association of Independent Schools WA (AISWA); and another on hearing health for allied health practitioners and early educators.

We believe that it is incumbent on us to share our knowledge about what works for children with speech and/or language delays or disorders, or hearing health. These sessions continue to help us do that. If you or anyone you know are interested in any future sessions, please let one of the TSH team and we will add their details to our notification list.

Family Surveys

Thank you to all families who have completed our Annual Family Survey. Surveys form an important part of our review and improvement processes, giving us rich information about what TSH does well and what areas we can focus on to improve. Families who are yet to complete the survey are encouraged to do so by the 3rd of October 2021.

As we head towards the end of Term 3, I wish all of our families a restful school holiday period. For those seeking to travel to other parts of our state or take the chance to attend this year's AFL Grand Final, please enjoy these moments safely. We look forward to seeing everyone back happy and healthy in Term 4.



Family Information Night

Understanding the link between connection and behaviour

On Tuesday 27th July we held a family information evening. It was well attended by close to 40 parents. Jessica Yegorov, our new Psychologist in the Talkabout program delivered an amazing talk on "Connecting and Behaviour". It gave the parents valuable insight on why they might struggle with their child's behaviour sometimes, and how strengthening their bond might be the key.

Some of the key points in the talk were:

- ◆ The bond between the parent/ caregiver is the foundation to the child's behaviour.
- ◆ When we are worried about behaviour, often we react by trying to control things more. We lose our sense of closeness.
- ◆ What looks like defiance might be a fight/flight/freeze response.
- ◆ Look at some of the key things you need in your life – such as predictability, choice and control, a sense of belonging. These are the same for our children.
- ◆ When a child's needs aren't met (for example, we aren't feeling close, or we don't feel in control) we see this expressed in behaviour.
- ◆ In a context of warmth and closeness, you can share your expectations, problem-solve and set limits.

So how can we achieve a strong bond and some pretty great behaviour?

- ◆ Get closer
- ◆ Get smaller
- ◆ Get softer
- ◆ Control isn't the goal
- ◆ Choose your battles
- ◆ Use your humour
- ◆ Mix up your instructions and demands with just delighting in them
- ◆ Acknowledge what they feel
- ◆ Give them choices
- ◆ Solve the problem together.

Telethon Speech & Hearing holds regular Family Information Nights throughout the year to complement the work our team do with your child. For details on future dates contact **Family Liaison Officer, Michelle Jamieson** (mjamieson@tsh.org.au).

Historic Trailblazers

Morning tea with Pat Barblett and Jill Dawson

Telethon Speech & Hearing staff enjoyed a whimsical morning tea with long-time friends of the centre, Pat Barblett and Jill Dawson. Pat and Jill were both part of the centre's inaugural fundraising/social committee during the 1960s/70s, who were dedicated to raising funds through a wide range of activities including film nights, cocktail parties, picnics and barbeques.

Known as the "Ladies' Auxiliary", this dedicated group of women were a pillar of support to the children and parents of Telethon Speech & Hearing (then known as the Speech and Hearing Centre for Deaf Children).

In addition to raising funds to help equip the centre's classrooms, improve its facilities and advance services for children with hearing loss, the Ladies' Auxiliary maintained a close relationship with families, often opening up their own homes to country students for the weekend so they could enjoy wider social experiences beyond their regional homes.

Fundraising has always played a large part of our centre's operations. We give our heartfelt thanks to parents like Pat and Jill, whose unrelenting efforts have helped us grow into the centre of excellence that Telethon Speech & Hearing is today.



Friends of Telethon Speech & Hearing,
L-R: Pat Barblett, Vicki Crommelin, Jill Dawson



The Language of Maths

Mathematics Conference at AISWA

During the last school holidays, two of our staff members – Sandra Mohr (Teacher) and Liana Sinagra (Education Assistant) attended a Maths Conference at the Australian Independent Schools of WA. They learnt new and interesting ways to make Maths exciting and fun. They presented new games and techniques to the Talkabout team at one of our team meetings.



Education Assistant, Liana, with her door prize!

One of the best parts of the day was when Liana won the door prize! Congratulations Liana! We can't wait to try out our new resources in the classroom.

Mathematics is such an important subject at school because we use it so often in our everyday lives. For example, when getting ready in the morning you might use maths in the following ways:

Time

Measuring time - e.g "How much time do I have before I leave for work?" Reading the time - "What time is it now?"

Patterns and routines

Knowing the patterns for the days of the week and knowing the routines for the day. You may also listen for different patterns in music or see patterns to solve problems.

Numbers

Put your shoes on – one, two. Giving a 10 second count down to leave the house "I'm leaving in 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1!"

Volume

Knowing how much water to put in a kettle to make your morning tea or coffee

Size and shape

Knowing how to fit food into a lunch box. Also knowing if your child likes their sandwiches cut into squares or triangles!

Following instructions

"Your shoes are under your bed" "Find your warmest jumper for today" "Brush your teeth after you eat your breakfast"

Think of all the times you use mathematical language or concepts in your everyday life. Maths is all around us!

We are fundraising with
 **Entertainment**
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\$50**

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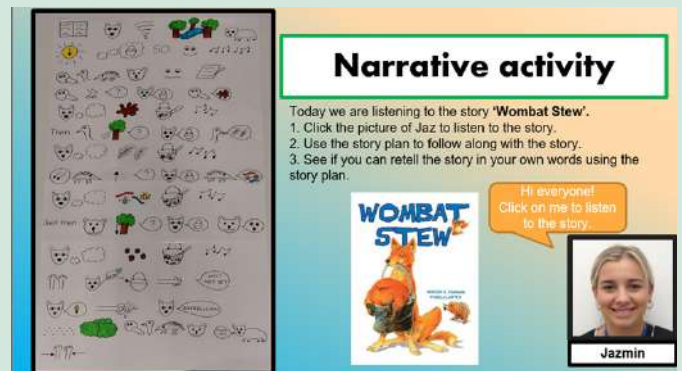
Virtual Classrooms

Learning at home with Telethon Speech & Hearing

While Western Australia has enjoyed relatively relaxed social and travel conditions regarding COVID-19, Telethon Speech & Hearing's teaching staff remain prepared for a potential future 'lockdown' situation with interactive virtual classrooms ready for students and families.

These virtual classrooms are purpose-built for currently enrolled students, following the regular timetable and learning activities that would normally occur in a face-to-face classroom. Images of our staff's faces and bright colourful images also play an important part of our virtual classrooms.

Take a look through some examples of the bright activities our team have created to help make a potential 'school at home' session fun and engaging for all Telethon Speech & Hearing families!



First Class

Flying high with Perth Airport CEO, Kevin Brown

This term, some students from Talkabout 4 enjoyed a very special morning of play learning all about 'transportation' with Perth Airport's CEO, Kevin Brown.

Mr Brown visited our centre to spend time with families who had received a Perth Airport scholarship, to attend Talkabout and receive the much-needed speech/language support that their child needed. With generous donations from Perth Airport, the McCusker Foundation, Tomasi Foundation and the Perron Foundation, Telethon Speech & Hearing will continue to support families experiencing financial hardships to attend our Talkabout programs.

To enquire about your eligibility for a scholarship, please contact our **Acting Head of Growth and Projects, Daniel Lombardo** (dlombardo@tsh.org.au) for more information.

Sensational Story Time

You can use story time as part of your daily routine to support your child's language development! Try these tips...

Make it part of your routine



- Read at the same time each day.
- Choose a consistent space that is quiet and comfortable with few distractions.
- Get down to your child's level so they can easily hear you and you can see what interests them in the book.

Choose the right books

- Pick books with bold pictures, fewer pages and less text.
- Try books with engaging features like touch and feel pictures and lift the flap.
- Give your child a choice of two books to pick from.



Try including a strategy

- Follow your child's lead. Try not to worry too much about the words on each page, rather notice what gets their attention and comment on it.
- Avoid asking questions. Rather comment on what is happening in the pictures.
- PAUSE, and let your child have a chance to direct your attention through a point, eye gaze, sound or word.
- Make it fun by using interesting sounds and voices.





Book Week

Highlights from 2021

From fairies, robots, dinosaurs and magicians - Telethon Speech & Hearing's classrooms filled with an array of colourful, charming personalities as children roamed around as their favourite book characters for Book Week this August!

This year's Book Week theme was "Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds", with Australian artist and writer Shaun Tan chosen to illustrate this year's Book Week poster.

Shaun Tan's artwork invokes flight as a symbol of movement between our inner and outer worlds while paper planes also became a strong motif this year.

Amongst the chaos of children and staff in costumes, the **Duncraig Outdoor Girl Guides** helped make this year's Book Week extra special with a generous donation of children's books to our dedicated speech and language library!

Check out these images of our Librarian, Julie Cox, next to the incredible pile of donated children's books!



Book of the Year: Early Childhood

Have a go reading some of these shortlisted books by the Children's Book Council of Australia for 2021! These books are most appropriate for ages 0-6 years.

Author / Illustrator	Title
Sarah Allen	<i>Busy Beaks</i>
Bernadette Green (illus. by Anna Zobel)	<i>Who's Your Real Mum?</i>
Libby Hathorn & Lisa Hathorn-Jarman (illus. by Mel Pearce)	<i>No! Never!</i>
Anna McGregor	<i>Anemone is not the Enemy</i>
Heidi McKinnon	<i>There's No Such Thing</i>
Briony Stewart	<i>We Love You, Magoo</i>



Power of Speech

*Highlights from our annual speaking competition
by Deputy Principal, Geoff Reader*



Telethon Speech & Hearing held its 32nd Power of Speech awards on Saturday, 11th September 2021. Power of Speech celebrates the wonderful outcomes possible for our students with hearing loss, as they exhibit their public speaking skills in front of a live audience. The students' ages range from Year 1 to Year 6 and represent 13 different Outpost schools across WA.

Each student spends time writing and practicing their speeches with our teachers of the deaf and education assistants throughout the term. They learn about a range of aspects related to preparing speeches, including using humour to engage the audience and dealing with their nerves. Students also develop their spoken language skills to include new vocabulary and concepts.

This year, we had 22 Outpost students with the courage to present a speech in front of their peers, families, friends teachers and VIPs. This was no easy feat with around 200 people in our auditorium!

Congratulations to our 2021 Power of Speech Winners!

Geoff Reader Encouragement Award
Oliver Webb,
Me.

Category 2 Award
Kyden Robertson,
Chessnuts

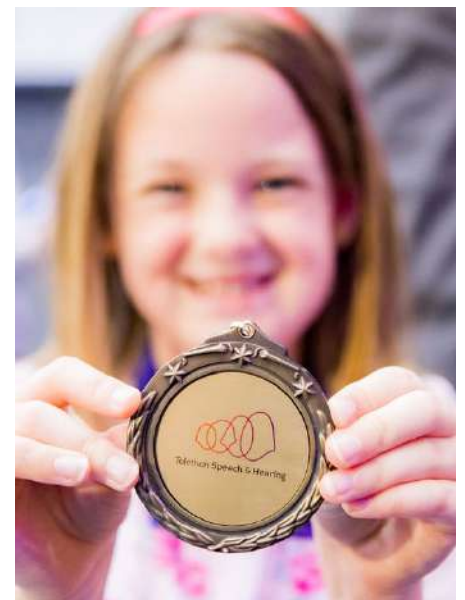
Category 1 Award
Chloe Hoe,
The Power of Music

Mary Shurman Most Improved Award
Sophie O'Connor,
The Best Sport in the World

Geof Parry, a senior news reporter for Channel 7, was our master of ceremonies again this year and did a great job in keeping the event running smoothly. We also had a panel of three judges - **David Price** (Certified Speaking Professional), **Cathy O'Leary** (Editor of Medical Forum Magazine) and **Kevin**

Brown (CEO of Perth Airport). The judges commented that their task of selecting winners gets tougher year on year. They felt that all students were confident on stage and had interesting speeches, making it a real struggle to single out winners!

Power of Speech is an event that takes a lot to organise and involves the hard work of many to pull together each year. This included a professional lighting, sound and videography team from **Techplus Live and Inception Video**. Both did a fantastic job and have now enabled Telethon Speech & Hearing to capture quality recordings of each student's speech. We also had a professional photographer, **Pia Barerra from P.S. Smile Production** taking still images. Trophies, signage and medallions for students looked incredible as usual, thanks to our friends at **Allmark and Associates**.





Thanks also goes out to our incredible Outpost team of teachers, education assistants, notetakers, and support staff including occupational therapists, speech pathologists, psychologist and audiologists - who have all put in many hours to pull this event together.

Our marketing team also worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything was in order. It was a whole team effort to support the real stars – our wonderful TSH Outpost students.

Once again, the efforts, bravery and fantastic speech, language and public speaking skills exhibited by all students at this year's Power of Speech were amazing and an extremely positive moment to watch. All students are winners for having a go and delivering remarkable speeches. We can't wait for next year!







Answer to win!

By responding to our Annual Family Survey

Each year, Telethon Speech & Hearing invites families to complete a survey as we constantly strive to improve our service delivery. Taking part in the survey is an opportunity for you to anonymously share your experiences and opinions with our team. We value the feedback we receive through the survey and take actions in response to this feedback. The survey is anonymous and your

responses will remain confidential. We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the survey online by visiting the appropriate link for your family online →

By returning the survey by 3rd October 2021 you are eligible to enter a draw for a \$150 gift card of your choice. Information about the draw is available at the end of the survey.

Chatterbox

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_Chatterbox

Outpost

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_Outpost

Language Support Group

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_LSG

Talkabout

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_Talkabout

If you would like to complete a hard copy of the survey or need assistance, please contact your teacher/therapist or email **Yuriko Kishida** (ykishida@tsh.org.au).



Hearing FAQs: Tympanometry

*Understanding your child's hearing results
with TSH Audiologist, Courtney Zoghby*



What is tympanometry?

Tympanometry is a quick, painless check of middle ear function. It is performed using a device called a tympanometer, which is a hand-held machine. The audiologist places a small rubber tip against your child's ear canal and a gentle puff of air is applied to the eardrum. The tympanometer then measures the movement response of the eardrum.

What is a tympanogram?

A tympanogram is the graphic representation of how the eardrum is moving. We have three main types of tympanograms, which have different subsets and can mean different things. All results require interpretation from your audiologist.

- ◆ **Type A:** suggests normal middle ear function. This means that the eardrum is moving well, there is no indication of fluid in the middle ear space and the Eustachian tube is working to equalize the pressure in the middle ear.

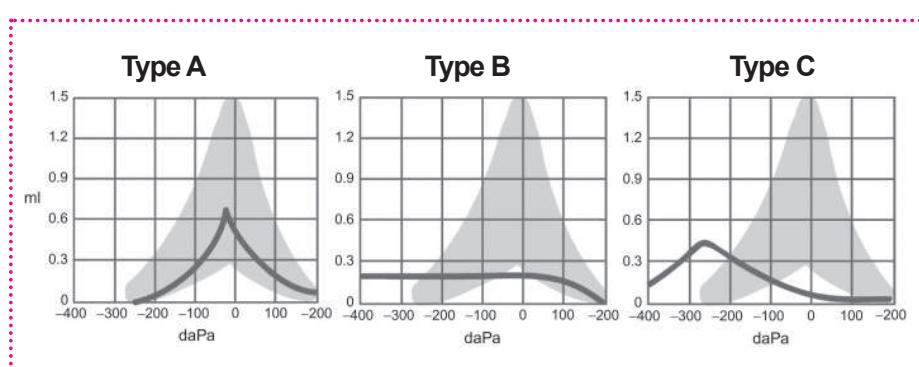
- ◆ **Type B:** depending on the ear canal volume reading, this can mean that there is middle ear fluid (glue ear), an obstruction of the ear canal (wax blockage or foreign object) or that grommets are in place and working.
- ◆ **Type C:** indicates Eustachian tube dysfunction – the tube that equalizes the pressure in our middle ear system every time we yawn, chew or swallow, isn't working as efficiently as it might be.

Always consult your audiologist if you are unsure of what your child's tympanometry results mean or if you would like further information.

Why is tympanometry used?

Tympanometry is a very important tool for audiologists, and as previously mentioned it is used to detect or exclude several things including the presence of fluid in the middle ear, a hole in the eardrum, if your child's grommets are working, or Eustachian tube dysfunction.

Tympanometry does not tell us about your child's hearing levels. The tympanometry results are like a puzzle piece, which contributes a valuable piece of information to the overall picture of your child's ear/hearing health. We know that Type B or Type C tympanograms can impact on your child's hearing, however, so if you have any concerns it is recommended to book in for a full hearing assessment. This is particularly important to note as many of our children experience speech and language difficulties, and we want to make sure that the speech your child hears is clear so that any speech that comes out has the chance to be clear too!





Why is tympanometry performed regularly (particularly in our Chatterbox, Outpost and T2/3 and Playtime classes)?

Middle ear health changes! Studies carried out in developed countries have shown that 80% of children will have experienced at least one episode of middle ear infection by the age of 3 (Monasta et al., 2012).

We also know that children are prone to colds/flu and congestion, which can in turn cause changes in the middle ear system. We aim to perform these checks every 6-8 weeks for our Chatterbox and T2/3 & Playtime classes; termly for those in Outpost and bi-annually for our T4/5 classes.

We want to monitor the status of your child's middle ear throughout the year to observe any patterns, so that we can provide the best advice for your child's ongoing ear health and management.

What does it mean if my child has an abnormal tympanometry result?

The audiologist checking your child's ears will be able to tell you what the result means. Children are often found to have a Type B or Type C tympanogram following an ear infection, a cold or congestion. Sometimes this might resolve on its own. At other times, medical advice will be recommended.

When is tympanometry NOT performed or recommended?

There are certain times when your audiologist will not perform tympanometry. If your child's ears are red, painful, runny (discharging) or if they have undergone recent surgery, tympanometry is not recommended as it can possibly create further problems

such as a perforation in the eardrum. In these cases, you may be advised to seek medical advice.

Unscheduled tympanometry checks during group are not performed as this can delay seeking medical advice – if you have concerns about your child's ear health or an ear infection, seeing your GP is the most important next step. If you still have concerns about your child's hearing levels after seeing your GP, please book in with us for a full hearing assessment.

How to prepare your child for tympanometry?

Your audiologist will guide you and your child through the process. We will often perform tympanometry on a toy or even mum/dad first to show the child what to expect. It is helpful for you to talk to child about why checking ears is important – just as a visit to the dentist or an eye check is too!

References

Monasta, L., Ronfani, L., Marchetti, F., Montico, M., Vecchi Brumatti, L., Bavcar, A., Grasso, D., Barbiero, C., & Tamburlini, G. (2012). Burden of disease caused by otitis media: systematic review and global estimates. *PloS one*, 7(4), e36226. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0036226>

Tympanometers



Commonly used audiology tools & equipment!



Otoscope



Audiometer



Cleaning & sanitisation equipment



Play audiology toys

Loud Shirt Day

#WearItLoud on Friday, 22nd October!

As the weather gets warmer and you throw your winter coats to the wayside, it's time to indulge in some fashion outfits for spring!

What better excuse to refresh your wardrobe than take part in Telethon Speech & Hearing's celebration of **LOUD SHIRT DAY on Friday, 22nd October 2021**.

Loud socks, earrings, shirts and/or pants – we want to see you in as much colour as you feel comfortable with!

On this day, we're encouraging all families and students to get involved by dressing LOUD for a gold coin donation in support of Loud Shirt Day.

You may even like to bring Loud Shirt Day to your daycare, school or workplace - just ask your child's teacher or therapist to help arrange a collection box for you!

For any further questions about getting involved, please contact our **Fundraising & Sponsorships Coordinator, Nicole Mancini** (nmancini@tsh.org.au) or visit our website tsh.org.au/loud-shirt-day/!

Scan code
to sign up
or visit
tsh.org.au



Thank you to the following families and friends who have already signed up to celebrate Loud Shirt Day for 2021!



Loud Shirt Day for Harper

<https://tsh.grassrootz.com/loud-shirt-day-2021/loud-shirt-day-for-harper>



UWA Early Learning Centre

<https://tsh.grassrootz.com/loud-shirt-day-2021/uwa-early-learning-centre>



Team Angus

<https://tsh.grassrootz.com/loud-shirt-day-2021/team-angus>



RAC WA

Fundraising in the office!