St Joseph’s School

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21st February 2020

Dear Parents,

As discussed with Mr Bienkowski at your Kindy enrolment interview last year, we have engaged ‘Down South Therapy Services’ to provide an on-site speech and language screen for each of our Kindy and new Pre-Primary and Year 1 students. The screens will take place at school (during school time) on Monday 24/2/20 and Tuesday 3/3/20.

The purpose of the screen is to profile each child's speech and language skills and identify children who may require further support and/or an in-depth speech pathology assessment. These screens will also provide parents and teachers with valuable information about the children’s development in foundation and pre-literacy skills.

A Down South Therapy Speech Pathologist from Down South Therapy will be hosting an information session for parents (15-20 minutes) in the Library on Tuesday 3rd March at 8:45am. They will outline the screening process, the areas of development to be screened and will be available to answer any questions you may have.

The screen will assess the following areas:

* Narrative and sequencing (listening to a simple story, ordering pictures to illustrate the story, and then sequentially retelling the story).
* Speech - clarity of sounds in speech, dysfluencies in speech, and voice (pitch, volume and quality).
* Knowledge and use of grammar, and providing information in sentences when answering questions about pictures.
* Knowledge of basic concepts (colour, shape, size and location).
* Comprehension (understanding questions, following instructions).
* Phonological awareness (identifying sounds and syllables in words, rhyming words).
* Semantic category knowledge (identifying objects that belong to specific categories i.e. fruit, transport, furniture).

At the completion of the assessments, a letter will be provided to parents and teachers to outline ways we can support language development in the foundation areas, and to enable early intervention leading to successful educational outcomes. For those students who may require individual therapy, the Kindy teacher, Mrs Robyn Trewren, will refer students to CDS (Child Developmental Services) in Pinjarra through the Government of WA for further speech assessment. Barbara and Georgia from Down South Therapy will also be available for private appointments at school if parents wish to choose this option.

The cost of the Kindergarten Speech and Language Screen is $65 per child and has been added to the 2020 school fees. Please RSVP your attendance to the Parent Information Session to Heather via email at admin@stjoeswaroona.wa.edu.au. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 97826500.

Kind regards,

Jenny Gorman

Assistant Principal