



St Joseph's School

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18th February 2019

Dear Parents,

As discussed with Mr Bienkowski at your enrolment interview, 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 in the Josephite Centre during school time starting on Monday 25/2/19 and on consecutive Mondays until the screens are completed.

The purpose of the screen is to profile each child's speech and language skills and identify the children who require further 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.

Before the screens commence, the Speech Pathologist who will be conducting the screens with your child, Barbara Kapovic, will be hosting an information session for parents (15-20 minutes) in the Josephite Centre on Monday 25th February at 8:40am. She will outline the screening process, the areas of development to be screened and will be available to answer questions.

The screen will assess the following areas:

- Narrative and sequencing (retelling a simple story and ordering pictures sequentially)
- Articulation (clarity of sounds in speech and dysfluencies in speech)
- Knowledge of basic concepts (colour, shape and location)
- Comprehension (understanding questions)
- Phonological awareness (identifying syllables in words and rhyming words)
- Semantic category knowledge (identifying objects that belong to specific categories i.e. fruit, transport, animals)

At the completion of the assessments, a letter will be provided to parents and teachers to outline ways we can support development in foundation areas, and to enable early intervention leading to successful educational outcomes. For those students who may require individual therapy, Barbara will be available for appointments at school and may be contacted directly.

The cost of the Kindergarten Speech and Language Screen will be \$45 per child and will be added to the 2019 fees. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 97826500. Please RSVP your attendance to the Parent Information Session via the Seesaw App or to Amy Rimmer (Kindy Teacher) in person. We look forward to seeing you.

Kind regards,

Jenny Gorman
Assistant Principal