



SCOTS NEWS



October 2013

Sensory Connections Newsletter

Newsletters are also available to download from <http://www.sensoryconnections.com.au/resources.php>

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Greetings to Parents and Colleagues,

This newsletter is aimed at updating parents accessing our services as well as colleagues in our community on our latest news and plans for upcoming events. It has been a while since our last newsletter and so much has been evolving over that time. Members of our extended team have continued to undertake professional developmental opportunities including Feeding/ Mealtimes , Social Thinking Training , the SCERTS training, the Alert Program, Marte Mao , Prompt training, Hanen It takes Two to Talk, DIR online workshops through Profectum and ICDL and more.

OUR TEAM

We are delighted to welcome two new therapists to our Keightley Road team.



Sarah Timmel started working with us at Keightley Road in July this year on a full time basis. Sarah has a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology. She has worked previously with the Department of Education and Early Childhood development, and then at Kids Connect Therapy in Melbourne, Victoria. Sarah is a wonderful addition to our team and has rapidly grown into her full time caseload. She is driven to apply her skills in speech pathology within a developmental relationship based model with children and families and has undertaken extensive studies to be credentialed in DIR in the USA as well as locally.



Kimberley West joined our team in August after returning from a period working in the UK. Kim has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Occupational therapy. She has experience and great interest in working with children with Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder, children with regulation difficulties and who are on the autistic spectrum. Kim has undertaken post graduate training in the field of sensory integration including participating in an intensive mentoring with Lucy Miller, Research OT at the STAR Centre in the USA. Kim has experience working in mental health in addition to paediatrics and is particularly interested in supporting children in educational settings and working with the school aged population.

Both Sarah and Kimberley bring much enthusiasm and passion for their work with children and families, and we are all thoroughly enjoying working together and learning from each other. Kim and Sarah have just run over the school holidays school readiness groups combining OT and SLP input and are planning on continuing to offer these kinds of joint programs.

Kathy Walmsley who is our clinical director and Senior OT continue to consult on Tuesdays to Friday. Yvonne Buters, senior OT, is now working on Mondays and



Thursdays. Justine Turton, Occupational Therapist works Mondays to Fridays. Sharon Campbell works with us on Friday and Saturday mornings as a senior OT (also credentialed as a physiotherapist). Lisa Adeney, Occupational therapist is working with us on Thursday and Friday and will be extending her hours soon to full time. Stephanie Rakich works in SHINE with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school term. Steph has a background as an early childhood educator.

In Reception at Keightley Road we have Lynda working on Mondays Wednesday and Fridays and Vidya on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 to 2.30pm.

Anne Nunn Speech Pathology Services is based at Aberdare Road in Nedlands (phone 08 63801793) and Anne Nunn, Clinical Director and Senior Speech Pathologist, consults Monday to Thursday. There are two newer faces working from Anne's Nedlands clinic:



Kate Wark joined us last year and works on a part-time basis (Fridays and Saturdays). She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Pathology from Curtin University and enjoys working with a range of children. Her current caseload includes children with an autism spectrum disorder as well as more general speech and language issues. She is a very enthusiastic member of our team and is enjoying working in a variety of ways in our clinic. She is currently doing some individual work as well as play sessions and home visits in our wrap-around program.



We welcomed Allyson Schaff to our clinic early this year. She is also a Speech Language Pathologist - trained in the USA, originally from Texas. She has had an exciting professional and personal life, having lived in many places with her husband and family and her recent experience working in Kuwait meant she got to work with children from all over the world. She has had a lot of experience supporting children in educational settings from early to late Primary as well as having worked in early intervention with a broad caseload, including children with an autism spectrum disorder.

SCOTS Parent Support Group Wednesday 30th October



Theme: Sharing Helpful Resources

There is a parent group meeting due to be held on Wednesday, 30th October at 104 Keightley Road West, Shenton Park. The doors open at 7.30 for an 8.00pm start and finish at 9.30pm. This is a chance for networking and information sharing between parents with facilitated discussion. *Parents are the best source of information for other parents! and we find that the peer support that is provided at these meetings is hugely beneficial, so please do take the opportunity to come.* Please bring along any new resources or ideas to share. Tea and Coffee will be provided and you are welcome to bring along nibbles to share. Gold coin donation to cover cost for amenities.

If you would like to come along please RVSP to administration@sensoryconnections.com.au

WORKSHOP FOR
PARENTS

Sensory Connections Parent Training Program

This is running in November 2013 on Saturdays 23rd and 30th of November. Please find the flier for this event here http://www.sensoryconnections.com.au/assets/documents/2013_November_Parent_Training_Brochure_ver1.1.pdf

We are really excited about our team presenting this training, in the past we have found that the knowledge gained by parents coming to this training has really assisted and informed them in terms of knowing how to support their child's development and to learn not only from us but through their interaction with other parents.

January 2014 Floortime Holiday Group Programs

*This program will be held at our premises at
104 Keightley Road West, Shenton Park.*

This group program is suitable for: **Children who have the need to strengthen their abilities to calm, focus and attend, emotionally engage, communicate & interact with others while strengthening their motor, play, language & thinking capacities. Our therapists & support workers will facilitate and support the children's play and interaction in the ebb and flow of the group process with a strong focus on encouraging children to build their capacities to be creative & socially interactive. We will use a variety of sensory, gross & fine motor, cognitive, language , activities including crafts and cooking with access to a variety of room spaces and equipment**

Each session will be two hours in duration with a total of eight sessions over two weeks. Monday to Thursday 13th to the 23rd January. There will be two groupings for the younger players 3 to 7 a morning session and for the middle players 8 to 12 an afternoon session.

www.sensoryconnections.com.au/assets/documents/SCOTS_Summer_Group_Program_Brochure_ver1_2014.pdf

Wrap Around Family Support Program

We have been piloting a "wrap around" home and clinic based Development and Relationship based early intervention program for families who are parenting children at risk of autism diagnosis or who have an early diagnosis of autism. *This program is designed for families who have decided that a relationship and developmentally based approach is going to be their primary intervention approach for their child and can commit to a minimum 20 hours per week of intensive therapeutic play based input.* This is essentially a parent coaching approach and this programs format is suitable for parents who are able to devote the time required to ensure intensity. A therapist with senior level DIR training works with parents to coordinate input from our team providing individualized therapies. Included in the wrap around support is input from a Floortime player / Home therapy Assistant for a minimal of six hours per week. While we continue to develop this program to be able to offer this to more families, we will be continuing to offer our regular OT and SLP services to families.



SHINE

We run a number of different groups tailored for the needs of different children. SHINE, our early intervention intensive group program has been running since term 4 2011 (for two years now!) with the children attending twice per week for 2 hours intensive floortime based intervention.

This program has been a very rich learning experience for everyone involved with it and provides a fabulous opportunity for us to work more intensely with children and families to support their readiness for other educational settings.



Our SHINE team has **OT, Speech and Language and Early Childhood Education** input, and is supported by a very enthusiastic group of volunteer allied health and work experience students to enable us to provide intensive interactive input which is tailored towards each child's individual goals across developmental domains. Each family participates in individual occupational & speech therapy parent coaching sessions outside of SHINE to facilitate follow over into the home and other environments.

OPPORTUNITY FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

"SHINE is a fantastic program where you learn so much It is a great opportunity to get first-hand experience with a range of children. You will laugh throughout the sessions, plus you will learn so much about yourself and a specialist model. Being coached by a highly respected therapist is a plus." Volunteer



We are now opening up applications for volunteer support workers to work alongside our professional staff in 2014. Please contact us if you are interested and free on a Tuesday and Thursday morning providing your resume and information relating to what your interest is at administration@sensoryconnections.com.au



Getting Into the beat with

INTERACTIVE METRONOME

We have been using Interactive metronome (IM) program for ten years now with Yvonne Buters being our primary therapist. The IM program which through independent research studies has shown to improve focus, attention, coordination, and timing, language processing, control of aggression and impulsivity and academic performance in children and adults with a wide range of cognitive and physical difficulties including dyspraxia, language delays, attention deficits, learning disabilities, sensory and motor challenges.

The I.M. equipment consists of a computerized metronome, headsets, footpads and hand buttons. Trainees are instructed to make smooth, controlled hand and foot motions in a continually repeating pattern, without stopping between beats. They must focus only on the metronome beat through headphones and not be interrupted by their own thoughts or things happening around them. Guide sounds heard through an auditory guidance system, like training wheels on a bicycle, assist in re-wiring the brain via progressively challenges trainees to improve motor planning, sequencing, and timing.

Attention, learning and problem solving depend on the core capacity to plan and sequence actions and ideas. The capacity relates directly to a child's ability to follow directions, read, write, do math, and think. The IM enhances a person's ability to plan, sequence, and organize by integrating auditory processing with timing and rhythm.

The IM program can be used to work on a range of goal areas for children who are experiencing challenges as well as for academic and sports enhancement.

Please visit www.interactivemetronome.com.au for further information as well as <http://www.sensoryconnections.com.au/ourtools/metronome.php>

For Our
Colleagues

Sensory Connections Presents

The Action Is In The Interaction

DIR / Floortime

The Developmental, Individual Difference & Relationship Based Model

Introductory Series

Kathy is continuing her training partnership with Mari Caulfield, Speech Therapist from Ireland to present a series of trainings for professionals in Melbourne and New Zealand in February and March 2014. This will be in a new modified format of stage 1 and stage 2 trainings, mentoring group weekend for those who have completed previous trainings. See

<http://www.sensoryconnections.com.au/events.php> for the details.

**Work
Opportunity**



Looking For - Floortime Player / Home Therapy Assistants (FTP/HTA)

We are seeking dynamic, passionate people to work with families accessing our services to assist them with implementation of the home based “wrap around “ home based early intervention intensive DIR/floortime based support for children at risk of autism diagnosis or who have an early diagnosis of autism. The role of the FTP/ HTA is essentially that of a “parent helper” in that the workers complement and extend on from the input provided by parents. Duty Statement is available upon request. Hours will be flexible with a minimal of 12 hours per week. A period of trial and on the job training will be required as well as a commitment to undertake regular supervision and ongoing training. Contact us for more information and to register your interest at administration@sensoryconnections.com.au

NEW RESOURCES

interacting with
autism



INTERACTING WITH AUTISM

This is a link to a fantastic new website resource

<http://www.interactingwithautism.com/>

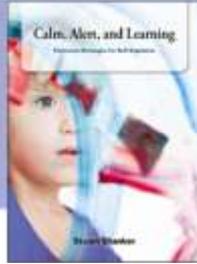
*Particularly recommended is the sections titled:
Understanding : Sensory Issues, Voices from the Spectrum
There are excellent videos also about different intervention and therapy
approaches*



KIDS ATTUNED

<http://kidsattuned.com/>

Kids Attuned is a virtual community designed to spread the word about a revolutionary paradigm shift in the conceptualization of optimal care of infants, young children and their families. The web site will inspire both professionals from a wide range of disciplines, and parents of infants and young children, to learn about the importance of relationships in development. The web site focuses on teaching the principles and practices of infant and early childhood mental health through online lecture, video, discussion, reflective consultation, and written information.



Grades: PreK-6
Author: Dr. Stuart Shanker

Recommended Book: "Calm, Alert, and Learning: Classroom Strategies for Self-Regulation" There is a very helpful companion resource to this book available online with many handouts available to download. Here is the link:

<http://www.pearsoncanadaschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS1zOw&PMDBSUBCATEGORYID=26204&PMDBSITEID=2621&PMDBSUBSOLUTIONID=&PMDBSOLUTIONID=25862&PMDBSUBJECTAREAID=&PMDBCATEGORYID=25873&PMDbProgramID=94021&elementType=asset&elementID=Custom%20Bucket%201>

RESEARCH

Breakthrough Study Reveals Biological Basis for Sensory Processing Disorders in Kids In a ground-breaking new study, researchers have found that children affected with SPD have quantifiable differences in brain structure, for the first time showing a biological basis for the disease that sets it apart from other neurodevelopmental disorders.

<http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2013/07/107316/breakthrough-study-reveals-biological-basis-sensory-processing-disorders-kids>

