GRP NEWSLETTER

LITERACY.

SCHOOL IS BACK! READING & WRITING ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A CHILD'S SCHOOLING & DEVELOPMENT.

Literacy (reading and writing) are critical skills for children and adolescents to participate fully in their learning, school and greater community.

What is the role of the Speech Pathologist?

Speech Pathologists help both children and adults who may have difficulty with reading and/or writing. This can involve assessing their speech, language and literacy skills to find areas of improvement, supporting language development and creating strategies to overcome challenges. .

Impacts of literacy difficulties:

- Linked to poor self-esteem, academic performance and friendships.
- May impact the child's overall wellbeing.
- May place the child at risk of reduced opportunities later in life or unemployment.

Early intervention can prevent difficulties from becoming more severe!

Signs of potential difficulties with literacy:

- Late talking,
- Difficulty being understood, e.g. 'baby talk' or persistent with immature grammar.
- Difficulty learning and remembering new words.
- Requires simple instructions.
- Mispronunciations of speech sounds or words.
- Difficulty telling stories/ providing explanations.
- Difficulty with age-typical texts and reading- (non-fluent and inaccurate).
- Difficulty making inferences.
- Difficulty with spelling.

How can parents/guardians support literacy development at home?

Young children:

- Nursery rhymes.
- Read aloud or listen to audiobooks.
- Label objects within the house.
- Talk about everyday experiences and share stories.

Older children:

- Play word games and talk about word meanings.
- Point out and discuss new words.
- Ask inference questions before reading texts.
- After reading, ask questions about the story.
- Ask the child to retell the story.

Adolescents:

- Engage in meaningful conversation.
- Create a literacy-rich home environment.
- Model good literacy behaviour by reading.
- Encourage reading of newspapers, books or magazines.
- Discuss current events.

At GRP Speech Pathology we strive to not only assist people in rebuilding their voices, but also to support people in their journey to exposing their individual communication potential, whatever the journey may be.

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