



## Speech Pathology

### Group Therapy

### Program Description

Group Speech Therapy is provided via video-link to a group of up to four children with similar needs to develop their expressive language, vocabulary and phonological awareness. Lessons directly correlate with classroom curriculum for each term. Ongoing mentoring and support for the therapy aide for the duration of the program is provided, allowing the Speech Pathologist to progressively hand over lead responsibility to the therapy aides as their competency increases.

### Program Structure

The Group Speech Therapy employs a Telecare model of treatment working with the child, teaching staff and parents via video-link. Royal Far West will provide:

- 20-30 minute screeners for each child
- 16 x group therapy sessions (8 delivered by RFW Speech Pathologist via video-link and 8 delivered by the school therapy aide face-to-face)
- Mentoring and training for Therapy Aides following each session
- Progress reports for each child
- Resources to consolidate learning and for use in the classroom

### Referral Criteria

- Primary school aged children (Preschool to Year 2/3)
- Children with diagnosed or suspected language and/or phonological awareness difficulties identified by teachers
- Children who are able to maintain attention for a 45 minute video consultation

### How Group Therapy works

- Teachers identify children within their class that they believe would benefit from speech pathology intervention.
- Teachers and parents/carers are sent questionnaires to be completed prior to the child's first session.
- Our Speech Pathologists conduct brief, individual screeners via video-link with the assistance of school staff to identify and confirm children as appropriate for group therapy.
- For those children that are confirmed as appropriate for group therapy, weekly therapy sessions are delivered by the Speech Pathologist targeting the areas described below, and in line with the classroom curriculum for the term.
- Following each online session, the therapy aide is trained (for up to 15 minutes post-session) to be able to deliver a second face-to-face session later in the week to consolidate the students' learning.
- Following completion of group therapy, a progress report is written for each child and provided to the parents/carers and school.

## Group Therapy interventions may target

- Using expressive language (sentence building and storytelling)
- Increasing vocabulary
- Phonological awareness skills

## How the school is involved

It is expected that as part of this program the school will:

- Provide the RFW team with one point of contact within the school for scheduling, collecting the children's information and to set up the sessions.
- Provide a therapy aide to work together with the Speech Pathologist to deliver the online sessions, and to be available for 30 minute follow up sessions in the same week.
- Provide the RFW team with information regarding curriculum content for the term in order for therapy sessions to be customised and therefore optimise impact therapy has on improving the children's progress and participation in the classroom.
- Ensure teachers are available to complete required referral information.
- Facilitate the completion of parent consent and referral information.
- Notify the Royal Far West Telecare team as soon as you become aware that cancellations of sessions need to occur.

## How Parents/Carers are involved

Evidence is very clear that developmental therapy is enhanced when a child's primary care-givers are involved, and support the care plan. We understand the difficulties parents and carers face in balancing their daily activities with the needs of their children. Our goal is to support and encourage parents and carers by providing feedback regarding their child's progress through the program.

Contact us to discuss your children's needs and to get an obligation-free quote!  
Group discounts available

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