



L.T.T.C. NEWS

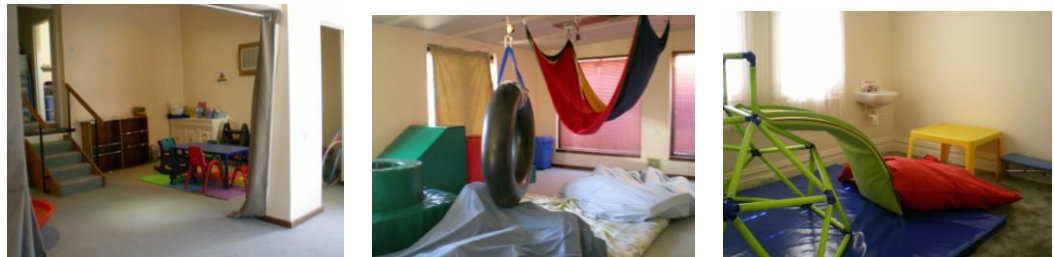
Dec 2010 Issue 5

Learning Tree Therapy Centre



Seasons Greetings to families and colleagues from staff of the Learning Tree Therapy Group, Sensory Connections and Anne Nunn Speech and language pathology staff. We have really had an action packed 2010 and we are excited about the upcoming new year with many upcoming events and activities in the planning to inform you about in this newsletter.

UPDATE : NEW PREMISES



- ✚ Update on New premises
- ✚ Floortime Christmas tree
- ✚ Parent Group
- ✚ Professional mentoring group
- ✚ Day for Educators
- ✚ Face book page
- ✚ Calendar of events

From January 2011 Sensory Connections will be operating from new premises at 104 Keightley Road, Shenton Park. Anne Nunn and SLP associates will continue to practice from the rooms in Nedlands (a few streets away only) however will also be using the rooms at Keightley Road along as well as other allied health colleagues. It has taken quite some time to find a space that fits our team so there is some excitement about this move. We will be planning a welcome happy hour once the rooms are fully set up so stay tuned for this. This week we have already started working with families in several of the rooms and the feedback has been great all around.

Looking forward to lot of magic moments shared with families and colleagues as we work toward supporting the development of children during 2011 and beyond....



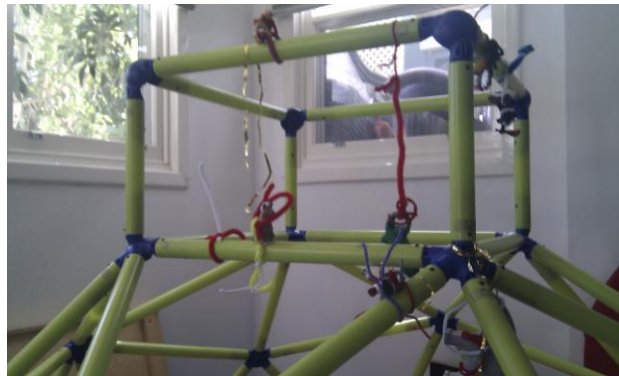
Our new home: OT's Sharon, Kathy, Joanna at the front of 104 Keightley Road.

3 Pearson Place,
Floreat , 6010

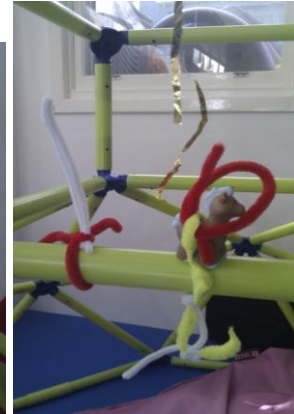
08 9382 8538

A Floortime Christmas Tree: by Kathy

Key goals in a floortime are to support the child's ability to attend and engage with others to share their intentions and ideas, to support them to think and socially problem solve. A young lady in a floortime based OT session recently collaborated with me as we combined her passions of Christmas, animals and numbers to create some unique decorations on the "Christmas tree". As always with our floortime sessions there are specific goals in mind as we play for that individual child, the goals are always in mind, however the path is open as to how to get there, when we get started we never know where we will end up.! For me the wondering and anticipation of where a child might lead us in our play together is such a thrill.



The Christmas Tree



Number 10 decoration

LTTC and Sensory Connections Parent Group

This group has been meeting each term in the evening and has been a wonderful vehicle for offering support and peer mentoring between parents. Thanks so much for Autism West for offering use of their group room to host the meetings. The last event was a barbecue and picnic at a park in Subiaco and this was a good opportunity for the parents and children to catch up with one another. [A big thanks to Linda Payne who is the volunteer parent group coordinator and does a great job of keeping everyone on track in organising the meetings.](#)



Upcoming planned meeting times :

- ✚ Thursday March 10th 7.30 doors open and meeting starts at 8.00pm. Guest speaker will be Mari Caulfield, SLP from Ireland who will be available to answer any questions related to developmentally based speech and language development and therapy. Venue: 104 Keightley Road, Shenton Park.*
- ✚ Sunday April 10th Picnic at held at Muelier Park in Subiaco (right next door to Subiaco oval).*

Support for Educators & School Staff

Due to the feedback we have been given by the many school staff who are keen to participate in training - The Action Is In The Interaction Day For Educators has been postponed until the start of term 2, 2011 so that it can be held on a professional development days to enable school staff to attend more easily. School staff are also very welcome to register for the first two days of the March Perth trainings - see below
If you are interested in professional development seminars for your school group please feel free to contact Kathy on kwalmsley@sensoryconnections.com.au or Sharon on scampbell@sensoryconnections.com.au for more information.



Floortimers Australia List serve For Networking, Support & Resource Information

This is an egroups Listserve and discussion groups for parents & professionals. The goal is to provide an opportunity for sharing information and resources about DIR/Floortime in this region. The link to this group is <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/floortimersaus/> Please feel free to join.

**2011 DIR® International Mentoring Group for Professionals
Conference Call Small Group: Five 1 ½ hour Sessions: January 2011 to May 2011**
Held on a late Monday afternoon Perth time, 9.00am GMT for professionals who have completed Introductory DIR® Training and who are integrating this approach into their practice.

“ I thought that the multidisciplinary aspect of the group mentoring was fantastic.. The mentors and the other group members all provided a wonderful variety of suggestions which have helped enormously. “
Speech Pathologist from Ireland

Please contact Kathy on kwalmsley@sensoryconnections.com.au if you would like to be sent a flier for this group with more details/ want more info.

SENSORY CONNECTIONS AND LEARNING TREE NOW HAVE A

FACEBOOK PAGE

Updates, resources, research links and articles of interest will be posted here

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sensory-Connections-and-The-Learning-Tree-Therapy-Centre/144475212253856?v=wall>



2011 SENSORY CONNECTIONS AND LEARNING TREE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

January

For professionals and parents

ICDL Online Version of the ICDL November conference

Panels on REDEFINING RESEARCH, REDEFINING DIAGNOSIS, REDEFINING EDUCATION, NEW APPROACHES TO WORKING WITH ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM.

Presenters include internationally renowned researchers such as **Catherine Lord, Ph.D.**, Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry and Director, University of Michigan Autism and Communication Disorders Center, **Connie Kasari, Ph.D.**, Professor, Psychological Studies in Education, UCLA, **Lucy Jane Miller, Ph.D. OTR**, Director, SPD Foundation, **Stewart Mostofsky, M.D.**, Research Scientist, Kennedy Krieger Institute and Associate Professor of Neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, **Margaret Bauman, M.D.**, Director, LADDERS (Learning and Developmental Disabilities Evaluation and Rehabilitation Services), Associate Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School. Visit www.icdl.com for details about content and to register

SCOTS / LTTC Floortime Summer Group Programs

FULL - WAIT LIST AVAILABLE

The small group programs will be facilitated primarily by Sharon Campbell and Joanna Van Leeuwen with Kathy Walmsley offering overall support with the programs. Children will be matched for developmental levels and individual profiles. These groups are suitable for: Children who have the need to strengthen their abilities to calm, engage and interact with others, during a range of play and motor activities in a small group setting. The play will be child directed with a strong focus on encouraging children to build their capacities to be creative and socially interactive whilst they are strengthening their motor, language & thinking capacities.

This will be held at 104 Keightley Road, Shenton Park, 6008.

Contact: administration@sensoryconnections.com.au for flier with full details.

January

4th to 28th

For Parents



February 2011

16th to 18th

For professionals and parents

19th

For Parents

The Action Is In The Interaction : DIR/Floortime Training - 1, 2 and 3 day workshops In Parramatta, NSW for parents and professionals. (same content in Sydney and Perth trainings - see below)

[Limited places still available at Sydney workshops](#)

The Action is In The Interaction : a day for parents only - Parramatta, NSW

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

Phone: 08 9387 8538 Email: administration@sensoryconnections.com.au

March 2011

8th and 9th

For professionals and parents

The Action is in the Interaction -PERTH TRAININGS DIR® / Floortime™ The Developmental, Individual Difference & Relationship Based Model (2 Days). Location: **The Boulevard Centre, Floreat WA** Presenters: Mari Caulfield, Speech and Language Pathologist, Ireland, and Kathy Walmsley, Occupational Therapist, DIR International Faculty. The DIR® model was developed by Stanley Greenspan MD and Serena Wieder PhD. as a framework to assist parents and professionals in constructing a comprehensive intervention program. This training offers a unique opportunity to experience an integrated approach to the child's sensory processing capacities, emotional development and developmental language acquisition. For detailed information please visit http://sensoryconnections.com.au/events_detail.php?event=14 The first two days are suitable for professionals and also for parents.

10th

For Professionals

DIR® / Floortime™ The Developmental, Individual Difference & Relationship Based Model (1 Day) Location: **The Boulevard Centre, Floreat WA**

This third day provides a workshop environment for extended opportunities and is recommended for professionals who complete the 2 day training. It will provide opportunities for further case assessment and analysis, goal setting and explore key concepts when coaching parents. For detailed information please visit http://sensoryconnections.com.au/events_detail.php?event=16



12th and 13th

For Professionals

Multidisciplinary DIR Professional Mentoring Support Weekend **VERY LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

With Mari Caulfield, SLP Kathy Walmsley,OT with support from Barbara Kalmanson, Clinical Psychologist, Senior MH Faculty and Head of ICDL Graduate School. This is designed for

- ❖ Professionals who have completed Introductory level DIR training, and are in the process of Tutoring. Please note that professionals who are working towards the requirements for DIR certification can use as group mentoring hours (See <http://www.icdl.com/dirInstitute/overview/index.shtml>)

This intensive week end workshop will provide case based mentoring support. Numbers are strictly limited to small group size. Proposed Schedule will include full day meetings, case presentations will be undertaken by group participants who are asked to prepare a case to present. In addition facilitated discussion will occur around model OT, developmental SLP case presentations, and mental health mentoring support. Location: New SCOTS premises at 104 Keightley Road, Shenton Park, 6008
Contact: kwalmsley@sensoryconnections.com.au

Thursday

March

10th

For Parents

SCOTS and Learning Tree Parent Group Support Meeting:

Time: doors open at 7.30pm, meeting to start at 8.00pm & finish 9.30pm

Guest speaker will be Mari Caulfield, SLP, Ireland - Supporting Language Learning

Location: SCOTS new premises, 104 Keightley Road, Shenton Park

Suitable for: This evening is not only for parents of children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder- but for any parent who is interested in using relationship and play based approaches with their children who would just like the opportunity to meet with others.

April 2011

Sunday

10th

For Parents

SCOTS and Learning Tree Parent Group Picnic :

Family picnic held at Muelier Park in Subiaco (right next door to Subiaco oval). This is a lovely enclosed secure playground area, just the right size to be able to keep an eye on all the children, with enough nooks and crannies, playground equipment to meet sensory motor needs. The parent group has met here previously and it is a great area for parents and children to have fun together

Time: to be announced

RSVP: Linda Payne volunteer parent coordinator linda_payne@iinet.net.au for your name and email to be on the parent group contact list.

Easter school Holidays

SCOTS and LTTC Easter School Holiday Group Programs :

Further Information will be provided during Term 1, 2011 to LTTC and SCOTS families



Getting Into the beat with
INTERACTIVE METRONOME

The Interactive Metronome (I.M.) is a patented technology program which through independent scientifically valid 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 organise by integrating auditory processing with timing and rhythm.

There are a growing number of therapists and educators internationally, successfully using the IM program. Sensory Connections Occupational Therapy Services are pleased to be able to offer Interactive Metronome programs. Please visit www.interactivemetronome.com.au for further information as well as <http://www.sensoryconnections.com.au/ourtools/metronome.php>