

Speaking and Social Skills

Effective communication is required in each and every aspect of life. Do you have concerns about your son or daughter's ability to articulate clearly and express themselves?

If so, this is a unique opportunity to access outstanding speech services to improve their speech and communication.

Barbara Baldwin is a highly skilled and qualified professional. She has taught and lectured in over 10 countries world-wide. As a speech pathologist and special educator she has worked with children and adults of every age and at every level of ability, from unlocking speech in totally mute children to improving the diction of articulate communicators. You can read more about her at www.barbara-baldwin.com.au

For the next 3 months she is in Adelaide taking a break from international work and the corporate field and is offering blocks of five sessions. To take up this offer call 08 8333 1312.

5 Session Special – at greatly reduced rates

**5 Sessions for \$440 paid and taken any time until September 17th
or \$400 early bird option to be paid by June 30th**

Barbara says:

"I am passionate about giving youngsters better opportunities by improving their speech and exploring language, and I know I've had an impact on many of their lives. I am available until mid-September and would love to get involved with people associated with the Down Syndrome Association. This is a window of opportunity for individuals to get some intense and quality speech and language input, and it's my way of giving back to a community that I value."

5 individual speech sessions is felt to be the minimum needed to enable lasting change. Sessions may cover any of the following:

- **Speech assessment** – to set the program and measure progress
- **Articulation practice** – to improve clarity in speaking
- **Fluency exercises** – to gain smooth and regulated speaking patterns
- **Voice and modulation** – to increase variety and vocal interest in speaking
- **Conversational skills** – role play and exercises to improve conversation

There is no magic cure, however, skilful tuition can make an enormous difference in improving articulation and voice quality as well as fluency, vocabulary and expressive language in general. Here are some examples:

Testimonials

"I am the mother of a beautiful fifteen year old girl who has Down Syndrome. We have been blessed by having Barbara Baldwin as our friend and speech therapist since the day that Alethea was born. Barbara has an exceptional understanding of people who have Down Syndrome, gained from her whole lifetime of living and working with people who have disabilities. She has such a lively and vibrant approach to her work as a speech therapist and special educator that the sessions with her are eagerly looked forward to and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Communication is enhanced not just by dry instruction but by awakening the will and the desire to communicate, and Barbara has the ability enable these capacities no matter how great the disability may be."

Helen Cameron, Sydney

"I have a son, Ned, who has Down syndrome and who is now 14 years old.He had one to one sessions with Barbara to support his speech and language development, and she also acted as an advocate at school planning meetings. She is well qualified, has an exceptional wealth of experience and is passionate about the needs of children and adults with Down syndrome and other disabilities.

Ned enjoyed his sessions, and benefited greatly from her insightful and creative approach, which included poetry and story-telling as well as movement and structured articulation exercises. He is now a great talker, raconteur and storyteller with comparatively few speech impediments and a great vocabulary."

Joanna Middleton

Professional Social worker, Senior Assessment Officer, Home and Community Support, Victoria

Selected Case Studies

Louise is an active teenager, who wanted to communicate, but stuttered when excited and also produced excessive saliva which often gave rise to embarrassing situations. Over a period of about 18 months, using specialised exercises, tongue twisters and role play her speech clarity and fluency improved to such a degree that she was able to speak at school assemblies and felt a new confidence when communicating with her peers.

Narelle is a capable 17 year old, who can read and write and can converse in two languages. Her problem is social maturity: outside her family circle she is shy, she mumbles and doesn't look up when she speaks. Poetry, drama and role play gave her the confidence to step up, speak out and reveal her outstanding abilities. She is now able to answer the phone confidently and hopes to get a part time job as an assistant receptionist using her language skills.

Chris was fairly non-verbal and expressed his greetings and wishes through a variety of grunts. Group work, which included movement and gesture, enabled him to discover his voice. He learned a variety of greeting and was able to express his basic needs using the movements and gestures he had learned.

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