



Health program helps children push past speech difficulties

MOUNT Gambier Children's Centre, together with the South East Regional Community Health Service, is encouraging parents to attend Parents with Pushers on Thursdays from 11am-1pm at the public library.

The program, designed to prevent and educate people about speech problems and encourage literacy in everyday life, has been running throughout term one and will continue until the school break.

Parents can take their young children for a relaxed stroll and participate in activities at the library after they return, while becoming informed about speech difficulties and how to prevent children from developing problems.

Each session has a theme and participants are encouraged to talk with their children about things they see on their walk.

Mount Gambier Children's Centre community development coordinator Fiona Pulford said the program helped give parents ideas about how they could keep their children interested and engaged while doing every day activities, such as shopping.

"We want parents to stimulate language at home and in other places," she said.

"We encourage children without speech problems to attend also."

People can simply attend a session or contact Fiona Pulford on 8725 7375 for more information.



SEA OF BUBBLES: Two-year-old Zarah Barrett enjoyed the Parents with Pushers program at the library recently, taking a particular liking to the part of the session where she could blow bubbles.



DEVELOPING SPEECH: South East Regional Community Health speech pathologist Ashlee Robertson reads with Heather Barrett and her two-year-old daughter Zarah.



HUFFING AND PUFFING: Melissa Smith helps her son James, 2, blow some bubbles out the front of the library during a recent Parents with Pushers session.