



Therapy makes a positive change

The adage never work with children is lost on Cassie Brown.

The speech pathologist has spent the past nine years working with children suffering from a range of language defects and recently opened a private clinic, Look Who's Talking, in Port Fairy.

Ms Brown said the response has been positive since the clinic opened in January.

"At the moment I'm one of only a few specialised children's speech therapists taking new patients between Warrnambool and the South

Australian border. I'm seeing patients from right around the Western District."

Ms Brown said she specialised in helping children who had problems with articulation, language, stutters and literacy difficulties.

She said it was important that if a child was showing signs of difficulty with speech sounds that a speech therapist was consulted.

"If children have difficulty with languages or speech sounds, it may go on to affect their learning at school and the way they develop their literacy

skills," Ms Brown said.

"And obviously if a child has difficulty with literacy skills, this will go on and impact them in their adult life."

Ms Brown said her interest in speech therapy as a career developed while she was still at school.

"Some of my friends and family members attended speech therapy sessions and originally my interest was sparked when I went along to a session and noticed the therapist got to play lots of games and had fun and I thought that would be a great job.

"But later I realised what a difference these people had made to the lives of my family and friends and knew that it was what I wanted to do," she said.

Ms Brown said after spending nine years working for Barwon Health in Geelong, she decided the time was right to branch out on her own.

"My husband is originally from the area and I thought it would be great to move here one day," Ms Brown said.

"I love the Western District and am loving working in Port Fairy. It's a beautiful spot."



Cassie Brown is a new private-practice speech therapist in the area. 110526VH13 **Picture: VICKY HUGHSON**