



**Raising awareness:** Cobram Community Health Centre's speech pathologist Jane Bouchier, left, works with Harry Sefton, 2, as mum Jodi and Bella, 1, keep an eye on the activity.

# Speech week on

Speech Pathology Week — which runs this week — celebrates the speech pathology profession and its vital role in supporting Australians with communication difficulties.

"One in seven Australians has a form of communication disorder," Cobram Community Health Centre's speech pathologist Jane Bouchier said.

"This can make simple daily activities — such as ordering lunch, paying a bill or buying a bus ticket — both frustrating and difficult.

"Speech Pathology Week provides an opportunity to raise

awareness of our work helping local people with language difficulties," she said.

"Fittingly, this year's theme *Language for Life* explores the importance of communication through all stages of life."

Children and adults with communication difficulties may suffer mental health issues and behavioural problems, display poor self-esteem and can struggle to manage social relationships and sustain employment.

Ranging in duration and severity, communication disorders involve problems with speech, using and understanding lan-

guage, voice, fluency, hearing, reading and writing.

Disorders can be hereditary, occur in childhood or happen as the result of stroke, neurological disease or serious injury.

The service — which provides for preschool children in the Moira Shire and Barooga — operates on Wednesdays from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm.

For further information contact Ms Bouchier at Cobram Community Health Centre on 5871 0900 or visit [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)