



# Helping tots talk to school

BENDIGO Health has launched a program to help children with communication difficulties to move easily from pre-school to primary school.

As part of the Bendigo Health speech pathology school readiness group, parents and children attend five fortnightly sessions together, and children are taught social skills such as greetings, taking turn talking and non-

verbal skills such as eye contact.

"Often, children with speech and language delays will struggle to use appropriate grammar and sentence structure, and may be difficult to understand," Bendigo Health chief speech pathologist Melinda Charlesworth said.

"This can result in communication breakdown between other children and teachers, which can be very upsetting for children just

starting school.

"Children with language delay also experience difficulty in understanding and following instructions, especially within a noisy classroom situation."

For more information on Speech Pathology Week 2009 visit [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)



LOUD: Harrison Bysouth, 5, enjoys sound awareness activities with speech pathologist Cassie Byers.

Picture: ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN