



Little Souls taking big steps

Child Care & Early Intervention Centre for Children with Autism
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Breakthroughs

Would you like to support Little Souls by having a donation box at your place of work? Contact Narelle on 55631490

A very sincere thank you to The Thyne Reid Charitable Trust for their generous support of Little Souls.

For me, a cup of tea and a sudoku are the ideal way to start the day. Sudokus are a great way to get the brain into gear. Each one is different and often a different strategy is needed from the day before to crack the code. Some days the easier option would be to screw it up and throw it in the bin, but the use of an eraser and a lot of perseverance will give you a more positive result in the end. The trickier they are, the greater the satisfaction when you make that breakthrough!

I come to work and there is a puzzle of a different, much more important and complex kind - the puzzle that is autism. Why does a child who has learnt to sight read many words in the course of a few weeks and knows the order of the alphabet back to front find it incredibly difficult to understand the simple task of giving me the apple instead of the orange when I ask him to "give me the apple"?

Fortunately, solutions can be found, but what is required is an individualized approach for each child (what works for one will not necessarily work for another) and the ability to think outside the square. These children do not always learn the same way as their peers so we must think of ways to teach that are meaningful to them. It also calls for a certain amount of faith, because whilst progress can occur quickly it can also be painfully slow at times. However, just like those sudokus, when we finally get that breakthrough the satisfaction is definitely very sweet and a wonderful reason to celebrate!

It is a very dangerous trap to look at the outside package of a child with autism and assume that they are not capable of learning or that their intelligence is limited. The onus is on us, their parents and educators to find the key to put the pieces of the puzzle together and help these children to reach their full potential. We do not have crystal balls and there are no guarantees. We must have faith and work hard to ensure that no stone is left unturned and make certain that we have given our all to help these kids be the best they can be. And, because the journey is long, we must take the time to savour and rejoice in any breakthroughs, big or small, along the way.

Robyn Hawkins (Director of Therapy)



The Shane Warne Foundation has generously pledged \$20,000 to Little Souls towards the cost of early intervention programmes for children with autism.



THE SHANE WARNE
FOUNDATION

teaming up to help aussie kids

Visit Musgrave Avenue Pharmacy, Chirn Park to support Little Souls on Charity Saturdays.

6 year old Cally & his fan club!

Little Souls celebrated our second birthday this month! A special thank you to the wonderful staff here at the centre who come to work every day with a smile and a positive attitude. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our sponsors who have supported us over the past two years.



Alex

BeadID is an exciting new company offering beautiful lanyards. The company is founded by teachers who are friends of Little Souls and have kindly offered to support our centre.

For more information visit: www.beadID.com.au



Alexander's Journey to Little Souls

Alex was born a healthy 8lb 12oz he grew and developed and reached his milestones like any other child. It wasn't until he got close to his 2nd birthday that initial concerns arose "Alex wasn't talking" yet. Something was wrong; so from the ENT specialist to the Speech Pathologist, a hearing test then finally the Pediatrician Alex was diagnosed Autistic, this was not long after his second birthday. The quest had now begun, what do I do to help my beautiful little boy? Firstly we started at ECDU (Early childhood developmental unit) for 2 hours a week until he turned 3 then 4 hours a week. Alex saw specialists at Family and Childhood Services and a private Speech Pathologist. This still wasn't enough we still needed more...?

Then we found Little Souls and now Alex is finally getting enough early intervention to meet his needs. Not 4 hours a week but 4 hours a day, of specialist ABA therapy.

Alex started at little Souls in July 2008 and he has continued to grow and improve since day one. Alex enjoys going to Little Souls, he has never made a fuss or complained which speaks volumes for the care and compassion that is shown by the entire team at Little Souls.

Early intervention is the key to helping our gentle Autistic Children. Alex is now 4 and has improved greatly, he tries very hard to talk but it's still quite difficult for him. We have also discovered that Alex has many strengths, he is an enthusiastic climber, exceptional visual learner and his love of the computer is now out weighing his love for DVD's, thank goodness.

I am proud of my little boy and may he continue to grow and improve and thus attend school with his big sister in the not too distant future.

By Denise Davidson
(Alex's Mum)

Special Thanks to Amcal Chemist Broadbeach for their continued support of Little Souls.

Donations can be made directly to Little Souls through our website at www.littlesouls.com.au



Special Thankyou to the Southport Sharks



Sharks CEO Dean Bowtrell presents a cheque to Little Souls



Committed to making a positive impact on the local community, the Southport Sharks' ongoing community program helps support causes which closely align with the club's own visions and values, as well as the values of their members. One of the Southport Sharks' 2009 program's unique initiatives involves \$1 from every club membership being donated to one of three charities; one of these selected charities being Little Souls Taking Big Steps. "When members join or renew their membership with the Southport Sharks they can choose to nominate one of the three charities, assured their donation is helping to make life a little easier for those facing tough challenges." said Sharks' CEO Dean Bowtell. "The first donation of \$3,434, was raised from only the first quarter of the Sharks' financial year, so Little Souls can expect another donation within the next couple of months."