Annual General Meeting  
17.3.2015  
Speech and Language Program Report.

Speech and Language Program  
The Speech and Language Program at Valley View is a specialised program for up to seven children with severe speech and or language impairments and their families. We are one of eight locations where the Programs run in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

The aim of the Speech and Language Program is to: "lessen the impact of severe speech and/or language impairments by improving children's communication, social interaction and development skills. This is achieved through specialised intervention in an inclusive preschool setting, family involvement and support."

Staffing for 2014  
Speech Pathologist - Mary O'Bryan 0.4.  
Kerry Hoskin - 0.5.  
Bev Watkins - 0.1 Wednesday afternoon.  
Bev is a regular part of our Kindergarten staff team as well as a teacher in the Speech and Language Program.

Service Delivery  
During 2014 we transitioned 6 children from the program into mainstream Junior Primary classes and 1 child to a Communication Class. Support was given for each child's transition through meetings where a report was presented that gave a summary of the child's learning strengths and included the specific needs they may have in relation to learning in a classroom setting.

Same Day Start  
Same Day Start saw the program begin with 6 children, the final place being filled in Term 3. The process for being offered a position in the Speech and Language Program is not finalized until late in Term 4 so our information morning in was held in Week 8. All the children were able to visit the centre for a morning in the last week of term.
Same day intake also saw a wider age profile with children ranging in age from 3yrs 9months to 4years 11months.

Parent Involvement  
Parental support is essential to the success of the Speech and Language Program. Parents and staff plan goals for children together and develop strategies to minimise the impact of their child's communication difficulties. Regular contact is provided with review meetings for individual goals, informal conversations with families and a Speech Book that goes between home and kindergarten. In Term 2 2014 we held a morning tea at Endue Café for parents to connect and begin to consider the process for their children's transition to school.

Attendance Times  
In line with Valley View Kindergarten sessions the Speech and Language Program operates on two full days a week, Monday and Wednesday and alternate Friday mornings. The children attending the program follow the routine of the kindergarten for arrival, play and the beginning
of morning and lunch large group activities. We then have a small group for specific language based activities.

The morning fruit is part of our small group as we have found that this time helps to further develop a sense of belonging, connecting with peers and adults and increased confidence in using language in social situations. Lunch time provides opportunities for extended friendships to begin and lots of talking and sharing with a wider number of staff, as all the children eat together.

Program Features for 2014

Cooking

Children follow a specially prepared picture sequence for each recipe. Each step is only completed as children say what has to be done, what has to be used and how. At times we place an object that is not to do with cooking e.g. a paint brush on the table and children have to identify what does not belong. Everyone is encouraged to try the food when it is finished.

Book based themes

Using a variety of story books each term during 2014 we explored vocabulary, concepts and planned for activities that would introduce children to rhyme, word families, names and sounds of letters of the alphabet and general print awareness.

The Books used included traditional stories “The Three Little Pigs”, “The Three Bears”, stories such as “Lucy’s Picture” to discover more about our senses and “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” lead to learning about healthy food and growing some of our own vegetables.

Our books this year, also included a range of non-fiction books as we learnt about tiger worms, our earth, what was under the earth, the moon and the planets in our solar system.

We thank the staff and committee for their ongoing support, interest and inclusion of the children, parents and staff of the Speech and Language program.

This is a safe, exciting place to learn, it is inclusive and welcoming of each child, their strengths, abilities and specific needs and this is reflected in the relationships that are developed with each child and their family.