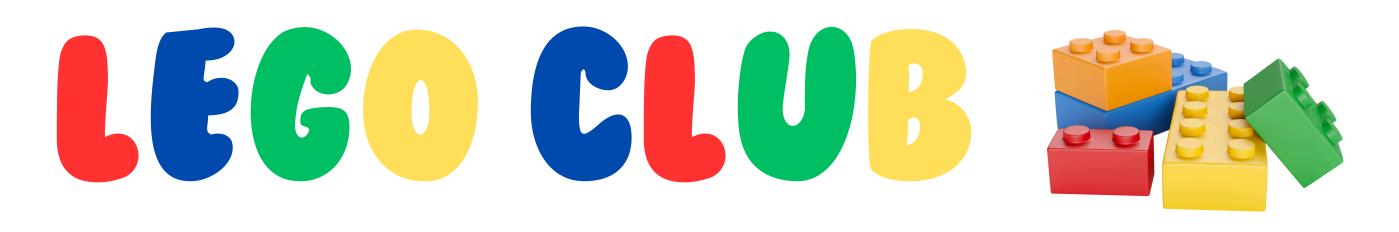


Paediatric Mental Health Clinician/Registered Nurse

# **Ariston House**

245 Pakington St, Newtown, Vic 3220 E: karen@karenspence.com.au



## What exactly is Lego Therapy?

Lego therapy is a collaborative play-based social development program in which children work together to build Lego models. It is designed to teach and promote social development and communication by combining children's love of play and Lego in a safe and structured environment. Instead of building Lego sets by themselves, children work in groups of three, dividing the Lego building into different but interdependent roles.

This unique approach can support the development of the following skills:

- Verbal and non-verbal communication, collaboration, turn-taking, negotiation, frustration tolerance, confidence, problemsolving, planning and organisation, attention to detail, dexterity, precision, flexibility, creative thinking, imagination, math skills

and spatial awareness.

During the group, children swap roles, allowing them to experience both giving and receiving instructions and the practice of the different skills utilised in each role. At the end of formal model building, time is left for free-style collaborative building, further providing opportunities for skill development and fun.

#### How can my child benefit from Lego-Based Therapy?

Some autistic children or children with social communication difficulties, including anxiety, can often become isolated in their play, as well as have difficulties understanding certain social situations. Lego therapy can benefit children as Lego is used as a bridge to encourage confidence within your child to communicate and engage in cooperative play with other children. The structured nature of Lego therapy also benefits some children by providing set rules, roles, and structure, which encourage teamwork, turn-taking, and communication with other children. This promotes the growth of social skills and the development of relationships with like-minded peers, all with the support of a trained health professional.

### How will my child be supported?

Children are supported by trained health professionals at a ratio of 1:3. This allows for individualised support and attention in developing identified goals of therapy. Once registered into a group, parents/carers are provided with a range of goals for attending Lego therapy and are asked to choose 3 that they would like their child to focus on. Facilitators provide opportunities and support in developing identified goals. Children are placed into groups with other children of a similar age and ability. A brief summary is provided at the end of each session. A report at the end of the group can be provided for an additional fee.

#### **Group times and cost?**

Expressions of interest are now being taken for the following programs –

**Term 3** – Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm during the school term. Cost \$95 per session.

School holiday intensive program: July 2nd—4th (3 days), 2 hours a day, 10am—12pm. The cost is \$150 per day or \$450 for three days. Registration is required for the three days to attend the holiday program.

Lego Group Reports for the NDIS: \$60 each.

Groups will be held at: Ariston House, 245 Pakington Street, Newtown 3220.

For enquiries please email: karen@karenspence.com.au

