



Biala physiotherapist Jane Unwin with Zach, 23 months.

Picture: RENAE DROOP. N06ML854

Biala a boon to kids

Troy Kearns

LINDA Fuller has no doubt about the positive impact Biala's Mornington centre has had on her son Jack.

"Jack has Down Syndrome, but Biala has given him the chance to develop good social and communication skills through their support network," Mrs Fuller said. "As a parent it gives you the confidence to know what to do when you have a special-needs child."

Biala offers therapy and educational programs, in-

cluding physiotherapy, speech pathology, psychology and music therapy.

Based at Mornington, Biala has expanded with outreach services at Hastings, Rosebud and Frankston North.

Manager Maree Grover said the outreach sites were important for families with limited transport. "We understand that it is very difficult for families to get to Mornington where Biala Peninsula's main centre is situated," she said.

"The outreach services are to help local families to ac-

cess an early-childhood intervention program closer to their home."

Biala is funded by the Government, but needs alternate revenue for other expenses.

"We could never operate on government funding alone," Mrs Grover said. "We look to the community to top us up for special projects."

Biala is holding a Kites for Special Kids Day at Royal Park, in Gatehouse St, Parkville, on Sunday, 11am to 3pm. It will include kite flying, a jumping castle and clowns. Details: 5975 1820.