



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH COMMUNICATION DISORDERS O.A.F.C.C.D. NEWSLETTER MAY 2003

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The Role of Speech - Language Pathologists in Programming for Children *at risk* for Reading Failure.

Rosine Salazer, Kim Gain, and Kim Koyanagi, in collaboration with Professor Genese Warr-Leeper, have recently completed a study of phonological awareness skills and programming outcomes for *at risk* Kindergarten children in the Thames Valley District School Board. Results of this study indicate that the services of a Speech - Language Pathologist were important and increased the success of phonological awareness training programs.

The project included over 1500 Kindergarten students from 46 schools which had low literacy test scores and were considered to be environmentally disadvantaged. The study involved testing of student phonological skills in the fall, before extra programming was provided, and again in the spring, at the end of the program. The children were tested on a variety of skills including:

- ✓ rhyming recognition
- ✓ word awareness
- ✓ sound blending
- ✓ sound segmentation
- ✓ beginning, ending, and middle sound identification
- ✓ rhyming production
- ✓ syllable awareness
- ✓ sound awareness
- ✓ sound deletion

The children's scores were used to identify three distinct groups, those *who had the skills*, those for whom *the skills were emerging*, and those who *did not have the skills*. Children in all three groups improved their scores as a result of phonological awareness training programs.

A variety of phonological awareness programs were delivered using different combinations of personnel. Significant gains in overall scores were found for training programs led by an SLP, and in programs for which the SLP provided indirect support.

The results suggest that a team approach, involving Speech-Language Pathologists, in literacy programs for children *at risk* for reading failure is effective.

OAFCCD Annual Meeting Delayed Until Fall

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders is usually held in the spring but for a number of reasons it will be delayed this year until the fall. An invitation to all members will be included in the fall Newsletter.

May is Speech, Language and Hearing Month

Children with communication disorders need publicly funded speech and language services. Unfortunately, many politicians and administrators do not understand the importance of these services, or how Speech and Language Pathologists can help. **Please take time this month to share your story and help others understand the importance of speech and language services.** You can also share this newsletter or print information from the OAFCCD Website to post in your office or on a community bulletin board. Remember, we need public support if we are going to obtain adequate services for our children. For more information check out the **OAFCCD Website** at

<http://www.oafccd.com>

Summer Camp Directory

The **OAFCCD 2003 Camp Directory** is enclosed with this Newsletter. We are pleased to see more camps than ever before. The one page insert in the Camp Directory includes informational on additional summer opportunities that may be suitable for some families. Please note that OAFCCD has not evaluated the camps and is only providing the information as a service to families.

Communicating for Fun **Parent and Child** **Activity Calendars**

Thanks to the provincial Early Years Challenge Fund, OAFCCD has been able to develop 60 weekly Parent and Child Activity Calendars. These calendars are intended to give parents ideas of activities they can do with their child to promote better speech, language and hearing. The Calendars have been designed for use with Toddlers, Preschoolers or Kindergarten age children. The complete set of calendars will be available on the OAFCCD Website in the near future. A sample activity has been included below.

Animal Activities

Toddler Activity:

Using pictures of animals, point to each animal and say its name. Have your child try to say the name.

Tell your child the sound each animal makes as you point to them and make those sounds together.

Say "This is a cow. Can you say "cow"? A cow says "moo". Let's moo like a cow."

Preschooler Activity:

Ask your child to name different animals using pictures from a book.

Try to make the sounds each animal makes.

Make the sounds quietly, like a baby animal.

Make them loudly, like a big animal.

Kindergarten Age Activity:

Have your child pretend to be an animal.

Encourage them to make animal sounds and to move around like an animal.

Switch roles and have your child guess which animal you are!

Extra Camp in Mississauga

Speech and Language Summer Camp in Mississauga. Intensive classroom - based intervention for young children. Creative therapeutic activities. Maximum of 6 children per group. Two week sessions. **Contact: Marilee Manou at (905)813-8338 for more information.**

COMING EVENTS

Whitby - May 10, 2003 - *Walk a Mile in My Shoes*, Interactive workshop about learning disabilities. Sponsored by Kinark Child and Family Services. **Contact: Sara Meaney at 1-888-454-6275.**

Oxford County - *Stories for Children* featuring storyteller Kevin MacKenzie. Free events at Tillsonburg Library (10am), Ingersoll Town Council Chambers (11:15am) and Woodstock Public Library (1pm). **Contact: Janet Stephenson at (519)539-9800 Ext. 238**

Tillsonburg - May 14, 2003 (6:30 - 8:30pm) - *What Did He Say? Why is She Acting That Way?* Parent workshop and launch of Parent and Child Activity calendars. **Contact: Paula Hathaway at (519) 842-9000 Ext. 254**

Toronto - May 31, 2003 - *Maximizing Speech Intelligibility and School Success for Children with Motor Speech Disabilities*, Presented by Megan Hodge from University of Alberta. **Contact: ECHO voice mail at (905)780-1489 or e-mail apraxiaontario@yahoo.com**

OAFCCD Future Directions

For the last three years OAFCCD activities have been supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. OAFCCD has not been able to replace this important funding and is, therefore, reviewing the organization operations and activities. To help reduce costs the OAFCCD office will be closed for part of the summer.

In addition, the OAFCCD Board members are reviewing the organization mission and priority activities. **You can help by letting us know what services and activities are important to you, and by paying your annual membership fees or making a donation.** (Forms are available on the OAFCCD Website www.oafccd.com) OAFCCD is a registered charitable organization and a tax receipt will be issued for donations. Please also let us know if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, as this will help reduce our costs.