

GRAND OPENING EVENTS

Speech Therapy Practice Comes to Central Delaware

Please help us celebrate the grand opening of Central Delaware Speech-Language Pathology in February 2008! We are a private outpatient speech-language pathology practice specializing in the treatment of pediatric speech and language disorders. Our services include comprehensive evaluations and treatment for speech, language, feeding, and social skills disorders. The practice is family owned, and is directed by Kathleen Capitan, M.S., CCC-SLP, an American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) certified and DE and NJ licensed speech pathologist.

Opening events include:

- **Open House** on Monday February 2nd from 5-8pm to tour the facility – office staff and therapists will also be available for questions and scheduling.
- **Meet and Greet** on Wednesday January 28th from 6:30-8:30pm with short introduction, light refreshments, and opportunities to meet therapy staff and ask questions.

- **Language Melodies Introductory Group** on Saturday February 7th includes 45 minutes of *language enrichment* integrated with child-directed music provided by Kathleen Capitan, M.S., CCC-SLP, *speech pathologist*, and Kathleen Nicosia, MT-BC, NMT, board certified *music therapist*. **FUN** and a great way to jump start or booster your child's language! Children ages 3-5 from 9:00-9:45am, children ages 6-8 from 10-10:45am. Pre-registration required, limited spots – so hurry! Call 302-674-3350 to reserve your spot today!
- **FREE SPEECH-LANGUAGESCREENINGS (Ages 3-7 years)** Saturday January 24th at our office location at 1326 South Governors Ave in Dover. Don't miss this opportunity to find out if your child's speech and language are on the right track! Screenings are available by appointment from 9am-12 noon. Walk-in screenings are welcome as available!

Spring Will Be Here Soon – Plant the Seeds of Good Communication!

We offer fun and instructive social skills enhancement groups weekly, beginning in February! Please call for age group times and availability! (302-674-3350)



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Who May Need to Visit a Speech Pathologist?

There are a variety of speech and language problems that may require the services of a speech pathologist. Some children have **articulation disorders**, or trouble saying certain sounds. For example, they may “lisp” the “s” sound or say “w” for “r,” as in “woad” for “road.” Other children may have more severe **phonological disorders**, in which they make many sound errors in atypical patterns, leave out sounds, and are difficult to understand. In addition, children that have Apraxia, or trouble with coordinating or “motor planning” for speech, typically require speech therapy to make voicing and to combine sounds to make understandable speech. Children that **stutter** or have **hoarse or raspy voices** may also need therapy.

For children with **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**, communication and social impairments often require speech-language intervention. Therapy helps children with ASD learn to listen carefully and speak more clearly, expand their language, use methods of augmentative/alternative language when applicable, and improve social skills.

Some children have specific language impairments, and require therapy to improve **expressive and receptive language** skills. For example, a child of 12-18 months who is not making babbling sounds or saying her first words should be evaluated by a speech pathologist. Likewise, a 3-year old child who is not combining words and making understandable sentences may need treatment. In addition, a child who seems to have trouble **processing language** may also benefit from therapy by learning to respond when spoken to, follow directions, and understand conversations going on around him.

Children with **Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury**, and various **Genetic Syndromes** often require speech therapy to target muscle weakness and coordination, cognitive language issues, and expressive and receptive language deficits.

For children with **learning disabilities**, speech therapy can be helpful to target language-related components, such as **working memory** and **processing deficits**.

Parents’ instincts are often a great indicator of a child’s skills. If you think your child is behind his/her peers, it is time to seek help!

Where Can I Find Information on Speech-Language and Social Skills Disorders?

Often, the internet is a great first place to gain a general understanding of your child’s speech-language or social skill disorder. Just remember that not all websites contain accurate, quality information and that it is often overwhelming to sort through all the information on the web! Some suggestions include www.asha.org for the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and www.nidcd.nih.gov for the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. There are also excellent resources available from local libraries, outreach organizations, and college/university websites and journals. Central Delaware Speech-Language Pathology would also be happy to provide reference materials upon request.

Next Step

If I think my child has a speech-language, feeding, or social skill disorder, what should I do next?

The first step is to contact our facility at 302-674-3350 to relay your concerns and needs. Our helpful staff will walk you through the process!

If your child has had a recent speech-language evaluation and services were recommended, therapy may be scheduled immediately. If your child has not had a recent evaluation, an evaluation will be necessary to determine his/her present level of performance, identify strengths and weaknesses, and develop goals.

Our office manager will provide you with questionnaire and history forms to give your child’s therapist relevant information prior to his evaluation or first session. If recommended, treatment will be scheduled in 30 or 60 minute blocks based on your child’s individual needs. ❖

We look forward to helping your child improve her speech and language skills!