



Jokes

What does a gorilla learn in school?

His Ape B C's.

What does a snake learn in school?

Hiss tory.

Why was the music teacher not able to open his classroom?

Because his keys were on the piano.

Why did the boy eat his homework?

Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

What are we learning? Why are we learning it?

We know progress is maximized when a student understands the goal of a lesson and why that goal is important. The question is, how do we weave this into our impacted sessions and timetable as a SLP? Carol Carafa, a SLP with New Hanover County School District in North Carolina, describes how she and her school maximize learning:

My principal has a policy that every classroom has signs posted and that every student can answer these 2 questions for every lesson:

- 1) What are we learning?
- 2) Why are we learning it?

The principal visits every classroom during the week. She asks the students those two questions. She visits all age groups, from kindergarten to 5th grade, in every setting from the speech room, to an art lesson, to math class.

I simply added these questions to our speech routine. Every student who comes into speech gets out their folder, fills in the calendar, then looks at the board to answer those two questions, which are on laminated sentence strips on my white board. I write a sentence or phrase underneath for each group. That really starts off each of my groups with a focus and a set beginning.

At the end of the session, I ask the same questions, and they must answer the questions to put up their sticker. I really think it has made a big impact on my speech students. Even articulation - for example - What are we learning? vowel /r/ Why are we working on /r/ today? It helps others understand you. It helps your spelling. It helps you say your name. I love when the kids can come up with their own reasons ("I was trying to tell the librarian what book I wanted and I used my new /r/ to tell her the book.")

Thanks for the great suggestion, Carol! We are going to implement this as we start our new groups this year!

ASHA Division 16-What a Gold Mine!

Finally - an Onstar Guidance system for School Speech Pathologists! Need instant tips on sticky situations, materials, testing, or caseload issues? Join Division 16! http://asha.org/members/divs/join_div.htm

The cost to belong to Division 16 is \$35 per year, typically paid with your annual dues. For that \$35, you receive numerous benefits (CEU courses, live forum events, an e-magazine) as well as access to an "e-list."

Members post questions to the list by e-mail and get quick responses from all over the country. Sample questions: "Has anyone attended the XYZ in-service? Was it practical?" "If you had a student with a severe dysfluency, and you had tried ABC unsuccessfully, what would you do next?" Political questions are also popular, "A parent/psych/principal wants me to do XYZ and I am not sure it is ethical or appropriate - what should I do?"

Anyone who is on the list can post a question or respond to a question by hitting "reply all." The variety and insightfulness of the responses is quite excellent. I consider my membership the best \$35 I spend all year, and also the most time-saving. Check it out!

Hearing Journey

This site is a powerhouse of listening activities, music fun, personalized worksheets and more. Designed to address the needs of students with cochlear implants, the activities are fun and functional for any student with receptive language objectives. The site has

crafts, worksheets, and activities to build vocabulary skills and listening abilities in hearing impaired students. Even has activities that can be done on an I-pod! Once you have registered, check in at the "listening room." <http://www.hearingjourney.com>

Continuing Ed Opportunities through OCDE

We wanted to take a moment to honor Andrea Walker of the SUCSESS project. Ms. Walker has been instrumental in bringing giants in autism to the Orange County Department of Education for many years. Those of us who have attended seminars by Lauren Franke, Michelle Garcia Winner, and others through OCDE know what a good "eye" she has for practical seminars.

Please be aware that the SUCSESS project is no longer advertising these courses by mail. If you are interested in attending an inservice you can easily look on the website: http://sped.ocde.us/cses/Autism/cc_ap/sd/cbs.htm to see the full line-up of the classes offered.

Current courses include:

- Barbara Bloomfield on visual supports and schedules
- Lauren Franke on Coaching Comprehension and Creating Conversation
- A fabulous Saturday series with multiple speakers on autism spectrum disorders and curriculum standards for special and general education teachers.

Seminars are open to any teacher (and sometimes parents), whether within Orange County or from neighboring areas. Thank you, Orange County Department of Education and Andrea Walker for your support to our community and for continuing this invaluable program!

Featured Favorite Therapy Tool

PCSS clinicians have a new favorite tool for working with students on expressive language deficits! The Expanding Expression Tool is a multi-kinesthetic mnemonic device (similar to the Story Grammar Marker in appearance) which is designed to help children organize information while speaking or when they are writing.

The simple and friendly looking string of beads is cleverly designed to teach a student a code system. The strategy helps the student to define: the category an item belongs to, the function of the object, the appearance, what it is made of, parts of the item and its location. Designed and marketed by an individual SLP, the kit contains the tool as well as worksheets, game ideas, and more!

Our clinicians rave about the kit! <http://www.expandingexpression.com/eet.htm>

Help! Help! Help!



Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. is currently looking for SLPs to fill the following positions:

*Brand new elementary school near where the 91 and 71 freeways meet (close to the 57) on the border of Orange and Riverside counties. The position is 4-5 days a week with a typical caseload, and two SDC classes. Terrific principal-wonderful staff-the kids need your help! Would be willing to consider a job share.

*Elementary school DHH position on the west border of Orange County off the 605 and 91 freeways. The position is 2.5 days per week. Terrific program for someone with DHH experience!

*Elementary school position on the west border of Orange County off the 605 and 91 freeways. The position is 2.5 days per week. There is a SLPA to assist with the caseload. Wonderful school-low caseload.

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. has provided support to nearly every district in Orange County, and many in surrounding areas, for the past 20 years. We receive exceptional reviews from districts and clinicians on the quality of our services, the passion of our clinicians, and the hands on assistance from our two local SLP directors. If you have any interest in contracting for these or other positions, we would love to chat with you!

Contact Louise Valente at lvalente@epcss.net or 714-731-6630.

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