



Re-Light The Fire!

The sand is still between our toes here in sunny California, but we are beginning to think about....the Fall. At least a piece of our beach time (okay—a tiny piece) is spent thinking about September and what we will do differently this year to light our kids fire for learning, and keep our own passion stoked at the same time.

We decided to make this newsletter a collection of jump-start ideas to the most common "New Years Resolutions" for school based SLPs and SLPAs. We bet they will sound familiar!

RESOLUTION #1: I will reignite my enthusiasm by researching free and fun ways to address my student goals.

Use these links to find some jump-starts:

Story Making Machine : Students write a story using their target sounds or structures and "publish" it to the internet - quick, clever and fun! <http://communicationconnects.com/stories.asp>

Comic Creator : Make single to six panel comics easily. <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/comic-creator-30021.html>

One Cut Artic Books for homework practice:
<http://www.speechtx.com/articulation.htm>

Great list of books arranged by sound: <http://www.talkingchild.com/ToysBooksartic.aspx>

Just the basics! Quick and easy tools to make bingo cards, board games, specialized dice, dominos, and more! <http://www.toolsforeducators.com/>

RESOLUTION #2: I will look for new ways to integrate speech services and the general curriculum. Use the links below as jump-starts:

Amazing resource for special education instructors, with literacy, communication, and reinforcement activities. Among our favorites are literacy fans and Tux Paint. <http://www.senteacher.org>

Lists books, audible books that have characters who are dyslexic like Percy Jackson of the Lightning Thief series.
<http://www.dyslexia-parent.com/books.html>

Caroline Bowen's site is amazing - these power points would be a terrific starting point for a presentation to teachers/parents about encouraging speech and language development.
<http://www.speech-language-therapy.com/shows.html>



RESOLUTION #3 : I will start the year building teamwork among the students with a fresh "getting to know you" exercise!

Teamwork Exercise submitted by Barbie Friedman

I've used this activity with my upper elementary students. It helps the kids find what they have in common with the others and gives them practice in coming up with a group answer that honors each person. I've done it with small groups in therapy, as well as whole classrooms as part of collaboration.

1. Print the directions/questions below for each group (if you are using collaboratively, divide students into groups of four or so.)
2. Allow the students to talk amongst themselves to solve the questions. The SLP simply eavesdrops on their use of expressive language and social skills.
3. Groups share their responses. We've gotten into some really interesting discussion about how the information they learn could be important or useful, and I get some terrific ideas on how to motivate them for the year!

Directions/Questions:

*****Complete the following phrases in your small group. Find out what everyone CAN agree upon. Be creative! Have fun!**

1. Something we like to eat is...
 2. With our friends, we like to...
 3. We are happy when...
 4. We are really good at...
 5. Wow- We'd love to...
 6. We are interested in...
 7. It really bugs us when...
 8. In our free time, we like to...
 9. At our school, we wish...
 10. One more thing about us is...
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RESOLUTION #4: This year, I will focus on student effort, not results!

<http://nymag.com/news/features/27840/>

I will never again say the phrase "Wow – you are smart" or "Wow – you got every one right." Instead, I will consistently comment on level of effort, and help students measure their own effort at every session. By reinforcing effort, I expect better results, motivation and self esteem. I am hoping that this encouragement will catch on, and students will begin reinforcing each other. I will consider providing select parents and teachers with a copy of an article on the topic of encouraging effort, and will look for opportunities to model with teachers and my personal family as well.



Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. matches high quality speech pathologists on a contractual basis to schools who have a part or full time vacancy. Are you interested in hearing more about us?

For SLPs, click here to complete a [speech clinician inquiry](#).

For administrators, click here for a [job posting form](#) if you have a vacancy or caseload overage. At publication, we are already discussing contracts for next Fall.

We are also available by phone at 714-731-6630.

Feel free to review our previous newsletters. Our [past editions](#) may have other helpful information for new challenges! As always, you are welcome to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested. We welcome new subscribers.

JOKES FOR KIDS!

Why does a gorilla have big nostrils?

He has big fingers!

What did the duck say to the store clerk when he asked how he was going to pay?

Just put it on my bill.

What did Sushi A say to Sushi B?

Wasabi (What's up B?)

Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?

In case he got a hole in one!

How do you get out of the stadium?

Three strikes and you are out!
