

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc.

Our newsletter for school-based speech clinicians is BACK by popular demand.

*Looking for a fresh collaborative or small group lesson on pragmatics? This month's hot seat activity on compliments can be applied to nearly any grade level, and is a favorite of many of our clinicians.

*The Spiral Staircase is a wonderful reminder of the perspective of our parents. Important to read before a difficult IEP.

*Featured resources include a great site for printable materials and a resource for working with ADHD.

*We have a new website design, [check it out!](#)

Collaboration/Small Group Therapy Idea

The Hot Seat!



Areas Addressed: Pragmatics (Giving/Accepting Compliments, Turn-Taking, Attention to Task, Taking Perspective of Others), Sentence Formulation, and Speech Production

Materials: Markers & cardstock

1. Prior to the activity, SLP discusses the concept of compliments.
2. One child is chosen to be on the "hot seat." This student is sent out of the room, and their name is written on cardstock in fancy letters. The remaining students each come up with one positive compliment for the specific "complimentee." Compliments are written down by the SLP on the cardstock with or without the contributor's name.
3. The student is called back to the room and stands at the front in a muscle man pose. The SLP reads each compliment aloud. Everyone cheers wildly at the end for the complimentee (we usually have them do a dance, stand on a chair, etc.)

4. The cardstock is decorated and/or laminated and sent home with the student. Be aware, it will be kept forever!

Variations: We have completed this activity for birthdays, student of the week, Valentine's Day, and Teacher Appreciation Week. It is also very popular as an adult "team building" activity. For younger, lower functioning children, pictures are drawn and/or the compliments are generated as a group. For older students, each student in the class lists all their classmates names in the margin of a piece of notebook paper, and then writes a compliment for each one next to their name. The teacher/SLP then transcribes everyone's compliments for a specific student onto a single sheet.

Extensions:

1. Require each student to say his own compliment to the complimentee, with the SLP simply taking notes and giving the notes to the complimentee.
2. Require inside compliments, comments about what is inside a person rather than outward appearance.

Grief and IEPs

The Spiral Staircase



"My IEP today is going to be tough - that mom is so intense. Every year she starts crying, or worse, arguing with me. I wish she would just accept her child's disability and move on. He's 11 years old, for goodness sake!" If you haven't said these words on a bad day, you have certainly heard them. The parent of a child with cerebral palsy child shook us to the core when she talked about "The Spiral Staircase." Here are her comments:

"I do accept Robert's disabilities, but I still grieve for the "normal" child we do not have. That grief is like a spiral staircase. I grieve because Robert cannot keep up with others today (color a picture, swing on a swing, etc). Gradually, I accept it, and move on. But then, another milestone is reached by other kids, and he loses out again. I accept that Robert cannot walk, but then the other kids start riding bikes in the neighborhood and he is left at home. I accept that he can't ride a bike, and the other kids start getting driver's licenses and going to prom.

"My son is happy and productive. He is being challenged by excellent teachers every day. I know that, and am eternally grateful. But the fact remains that IEPs are a painful annual ritual. Incremental progress is documented as cold reality. The stakes are high as we decide which of his many struggles will be our next focus. I once again must consider his peer's progress and my son's limitations. I need time to readjust my

expectations to enjoy the special gift I have been given. So forgive me if I am emotional. I'm just climbing the spiral staircase."

Resources We Love

Featured Site: www.janbrett.com. The author of The Mitten, The Hat, Honey Honey Lion, On Noah's Ark, and many other books has built an incredible resource file for parents and teachers. Click on an item and print it – there is no charge or delay. Her signature artwork decorates bookmarks, awards, bookplates, bulletin board boarders, interactive stationery, and a mind boggling array of other helpful items. Check it out!

Featured Book: Teaching Teens with ADD and ADHD: A Quick Reference Guide by Chris Dendy. This book is not just for teens, but for any child from upper elementary on upward. Its terrific format provides a series of 2 page summaries on 75 topics such as common medications, teaching time management, using technology, and when parents don't believe it's ADD. A very functional resource, the "good" kind of cookbook! Her website, www.chrisdendy.com, contains excellent parent and teacher information as well.

Current Opportunities in Orange/San Diego Counties

Are you interested in contracting with us?

We would love to talk to you about contracting in public and non-public schools. We offer great pay, excellent support for clinical fellows and SLPs, and a terrific choice of assignments. We have worked in nearly every district in Orange County and many in North San Diego. You chose the very best assignment for your interests and expertise.

Some choice assignments awaiting the perfect clinician include:

- * 100% FT: You are an integral part of a team working with children with medical issues in a public school setting. East Orange County near Disneyland.
- *60% Time: You are working with high schoolers with emotional issues. You are part of a terrific team including behavioral specialists and social workers in a nonpublic school. Central Orange County near the Orange Crush.
- * 100% FT: Traditional elementary program with an excellent SLP on site with you. 5 days a week. Central Orange County.

We've delivered a new website!

Check it out!

After months of labor, we are proud to announce the birth of our new and improved website, www.pacificcoastspeech.com.

We hope that you find the quick links helpful. There is information on use of SLPAs, collaboration, advocacy, and some terrific therapy resources.

If you or someone you know wants to work with controlled caseloads in an educational environment, there is information on the mechanics of contracting, feedback from our current clinicians, and a quick inquiry form regarding job openings. We would also love to answer questions personally.

Our newsletters are archived on the site, including an often requested article on motivating middle schoolers!

[Click here to view the website!](#)

Kids Jokes!

What does a moose get when he lifts weights?

Moosles

What did the teddy bear say when he was offered dessert?

No thanks, I'm stuffed.

What is Santa's favorite kind of sandwich?

Peanut butter and jolly!

Treasure Life This Holiday Season!