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## Happy Holidays!

Welcome to the holidays! We hope that this newsletter finds you with a fleece blanket and a laptop, or at minimum wearing comfy socks and savoring a warm chocolate chip cookie! We know you are swamped, so we will offer you only good jokes and practical ideas and websites you could use today.

## Topic of the Month: Working with Speech Language Pathology Assistants



Speech Language Pathology Assistants are on the rise! As their presence grows in the school setting, we become even more aware of the "extras" involved in successfully navigating a caseload. In addition to ongoing instruction about specific students, we asked some of our clinicians about issues they recommend discussing with SLP-As to streamline systems and avoid potential landmines. Here are some of their suggestions:

1. Are you and I clear on the ethical and legal limitations of my supervision? Have we completed all paperwork required? For example, in California, SLPs must immediately sign the Supervisor Responsibility Statement <http://www.slpab.ca.gov/assistant.htm> or be subject to sanctions/fines.
2. Did you create a binder of tools and tips within your clinical program that you could share with me? (Several local programs equip their clinicians with some great materials!)
3. Do you understand the qualification process and our role in the education team (the "big picture")?
4. What have you been taught about confidentiality?
5. What have you been taught about requirements for reporting abuse?
6. How comfortable are you with universal health and safety precautions (handwashing, universal precautions, medical emergency procedures)?
7. What methods would you use to guide a student who is testing your limits? When would you consult me for help?
8. How are we going to keep track of the progress of students? Do you have forms or methods that have worked for you in the past?

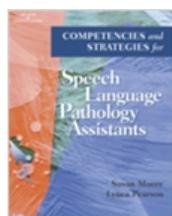
9. Where do you think you are strongest in performing SLP-A duties? How can I best support your areas of growth?

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. is giving a workshop on SLP-A supervision in the Spring with the assistance of a local SLP-A program administrator and the California Speech & Hearing Association.

In California, if you supervise a SLP-A (even part time) you **MUST attend a training course within two years of initiating supervision or you are personally subject to fines and sanctions**. If you are near Orange County and need to attend the required six hour course, please email us directly at [lvalente@epcss.net](mailto:lvalente@epcss.net) and we will put you and/or your colleagues on the mailing list for further details. ASHA CEUs are available.

## Featured Book: Competencies and Strategies for Speech Language Pathology Assistants

By Susan Moore and Lynea Pearson



Broad based introduction and training manual for assisting SLP-As in clinical skills, professionalism and ethics, time management, bilingual considerations, and more. Material is practical, with rich reference material provided. We found a number of pages that would be just the ticket for a SLP-A who needs a quick inservice on a critical topic.

## Featured Materials and Ideas Website: [speakingofspeech.com](http://speakingofspeech.com)



WOW! I got lost in the free therapy materials, "tech tips" for SLPs joining the computer age, materials exchange, IEP goals bank, and links to great websites of other creative SLPs. What a goldmine! [speakingofspeech.com](http://speakingofspeech.com).

## Counseling a Parent to try Nonverbal Communication Options? Visit YAACK.



Trying to convince a parent to try an alternative to oral communication? YAACK, a site about connecting kids to Augmentative & Alternative Communication has a handy chart focused on practical myths and fears, and offers research based answers to those concerns as well as guidelines for when augmentative communication may be helpful.

## Open Positions with Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc.

Pacific Coast Speech Services Inc. has great opportunities year-round for passionate clinicians! Here is a sample of some of our current unmet needs in Orange County. We have also had some terrific options offered on the outskirts - please email me directly at [lvalente@epcss.net](mailto:lvalente@epcss.net) with further questions

- A middle school off the 57 freeway toward Brea needs part or full time SLP/SLPAs.
- A preschool program off the 22 freeway close to Beach Blvd needs part time (short hours) SLP assistance with preschool therapy for SDC students.
- An elementary program near Orange needs one day SLP assistance with students with severe autism. Hours flexible - working with an experienced SLPA in a team setting.
- An elementary program near Irvine needs assistance part or full time with a K-5 population.

Other opportunities abound - please check our website [Pacific Coast Speech Services](#) for facts on contracting with PCSS, Inc., send a confidential [inquiry](#) through our website, or call Louise Valente directly at 714-731-6630. We would welcome the opportunity to talk further!

## Jokes for Kids

**What do snowmen eat for breakfast?** Frosted Flakes.

**What do elves learn in school?** The elf-abet!

**What sort of ball doesn't bounce?** A Snowball!

**Knock Knock? Who's there?** Doughnut. **Doughnut who?** Doughnut open til Christmas!

Louise Valente  
**Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc.**  
714-731-6630

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