



## Winter Jokes

Are you staying warm this chilly season??? Laughter is always a good warm-up, so we'll put some good kid jokes first! Studies show joke-telling is a great way for kids to develop a wide variety of expressive language skills - plus it is fun!

**What kind of animal do you never want to play cards with?**

A cheetah!

**Why was the broom late?**

It overswept!

**What kind of hair do oceans have?**

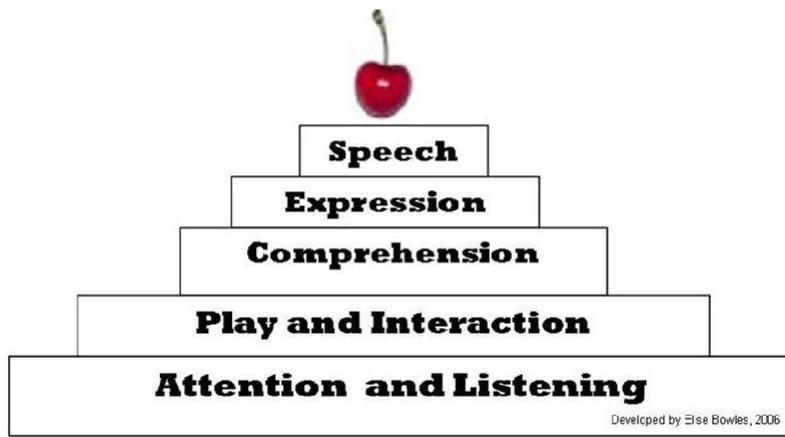
Wavy!

**What do you call a rabbit who tells joke?**

A funny bunny!

## Baking the Communications Cake

Picture yourself in a contentious IEP, where the parents are fuming because their child is still not talking after two years of speech therapy. They want pullout services, which you believe is not the best approach for this student. Elise Bowles, SLP, came up with a brilliant analogy to help parents and others understand how all the goals on the IEP and all the educational services (speech, academic, occupational therapy) work together to encourage effective communication and academic growth. The visual image is that of a multi-tiered wedding cake:



Often, the parent is only looking at the output, or "cherry" of verbal language, rather than realizing the complexity of underlying skills that lead to effective communication. Could this word picture help you explain the student's progress, or why additional pullout time at the expense of classroom experience might be counterproductive? Using this analogy in IEPs has been very effective for our team. Thanks to Elise Bowles and Ruth Jarvis for sharing this analogy with us.

### Featured Website-Cindy's Autistic Support

An Autism Treasure Trove! I lost a half hour looking around in here, but I gained some great ideas for March activities and literature links, a fresh set of conversation starters for lunch bunch, middle school social skill rubrics, and some terrific new sites for autistic kids with special interests. Very practical suggestions compiled specifically for school based programs. An extra bonus is a section on selective mutism. <http://www.cindysautisticsupport.com/>

### Alert! Alert! Change in OCDE SUCSESS Project Communications

We have become aware of a policy/funding change within the Orange County Department of Education's S.U.C.S.E.S.S. Project that we wanted you to know about. Many of you have attended the wonderful seminars by Lauren Franke, Michelle Garcia Winner, and others coordinated by Andrea Walker. Please be aware that the budget cuts have resulted in changes with the way these seminars are advertised and in the registration procedures.

If you are interested in attending SUCSESS project seminars, the current calendar and flyers are always available on the website along with registration information [http://sped.ocde.us/cses/Autism/cc\\_ap/sd/cbs.htm](http://sped.ocde.us/cses/Autism/cc_ap/sd/cbs.htm)

Currently, seminars are listed that address the needs of parents, educators, and paraprofessionals in the areas of autism and Asperger's Syndrome related issues. These seminars are usually less expensive than others offered, as the SUCSESS project is partially underwritten by other sources. Please pass the word on to your fellow educators. Flyers are available in both PDF and WORD format. Follow the specific registration directions on each flyer. While reviewing this section of the OCDE Special Schools website, look into the other sections such as Resources for Staff and Parents. Lots of good information!

### Featured Book, [Big Words for Little People](#) by Jamie Lee Curtis

Not only is she a terrific actress, but all her books support verbal strategies to manage moods, handle difficult situations, and build relationships. Isn't that our goal as educators? [Big Words for Little People](#) is geared toward a preschool to early elementary language level. The pictures have small quirky details that are fun to spot, with a comical storyline used to teach fifteen critical words (consequences,

cooperate, privacy, etc.) A fabulous addition to any SLP's library!

## Are you going to CSHA?



This year's CSHA conference is in Long Beach March 5th-8th. Have you registered yet? If not, go to [www.csha.org](http://www.csha.org). We will be in Booth #406 in the exhibition hall behind SuperDuper and across from the Stuttering Foundation. Stop by for sweet treats, raffles, and our ever-popular (free) IEP Calculation Wheel! If you have colleagues who enjoy this quarterly newsletter, you can sign them up for our future issues and pick up copies of past issues at the booth!

## Thank You for 20 Years!

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. is celebrating its 20th year serving the educational communities of Southern California! We regularly contract with public and private schools in portions of Riverside, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties, as well as our primary base of Orange County.

We are thankful for the opportunities that are offered by our supportive districts and non-public schools, and are constantly impressed by the talents of the speech pathologists and SLP-As who contract with us. If you are interested in hearing more about opportunities through our company, or are a district or non-public school in need of assistance, please visit our website at [www.pacificcoastspeech.com](http://www.pacificcoastspeech.com). We do have some part-time and full-time opportunities available to cover the remainder of the school year, and would love to chat!

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