



Counseling on Counseling

IEP meetings can be tough on us as SLPs, but can you imagine what it is like on the other side of the table? How can we maximize effectiveness while building a positive working relationship with parents? How do you "teach" this skill to a new grad, or strengthen your own skills for a challenging IEP? We took a poll of our seasoned clinicians, below are some of their ideas.

Parent Profile Gather as much information as you can about the parents before the meeting. Is this a parent who thinks their child is "just a boy" or are they the referral source? Is this the first time that they have worked with an education team? Consider medical status, education, vocation, socioeconomic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds.

"Hook" to the Parent Perspective Start by asking the parent's perspective on the child's language skills (listening and speaking.) "Hook" your presentation to their perspective. For example, if they say that the child has trouble doing chores at home because he forgets what he was told to do, refer to that comment when talking about comprehension of longer information. Parents have more experience and time with their child than you have test scores. You see a snapshot of the child. They see the day-to-day reality across settings. Value their input, even if the presentation and vocabulary is not "school-wise."

Address Both Parents Be careful to address both parents, not just the "talker." If possible, encourage parents to bring their spouse so there are two sets of ears.

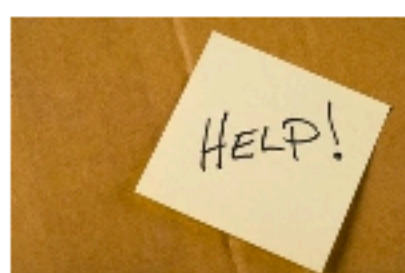
Use Visual Aids Use visual aids (sample test pages, blown-up bell curve, etc.) as much as possible.

Don't Overwhelm With Information Take care not to give too much information. Parents who are being hit for the first time with a diagnosis, or are sitting in front of five professionals, may not be ready to hear about twenty sub-tests. Start with a summary of the child's strengths and weaknesses, and let the parent draw information out at their pace instead of yours. The parents need the "big picture," but the details can wait until they can go home and digest the report. Invite them to call with questions after the IEP.

Wait for Questions After every chunk of information, ask "What are your questions?" Stop and wait for a response. If the parent realizes that they have permission to clarify information and share their ideas, they will. Consistently asking this question lets them know to expect it.

Listen to Other Team Members/Parents and Be Willing to Adjust Goals Listen carefully during the presentations of others for areas that are causing practical issues. Be prepared to add/substitute a goal to address a specific pragmatic need brought up by the parent or teacher. For example, "he tends to sit quietly when I am giving instructions, and will go his own way without asking me questions," may demonstrate a need for a goal on identifying unclear directions and asking a specific question.

Provide Resources Consider providing resources to the parents on how to change their own language patterns at home. For example, would the parent benefit from a handout on strategies to improve comprehension? Obviously, handle delicately.



HELP! I need CEUS!

Many of us are faced with a limited budget for Continuing Education units this year and are considering online courses. What are your options?

Here are some ideas:

*<http://www.speechpathology.com> \$99 for an annual subscription, which entitles you to complete as many CEU courses as you like. Free to SLP students! Courses available are both live (meeting the interactive requirement for CA licenses) and pre-recorded (meeting the self-study requirement.) Wide variety of topics.

*www.superduperinc.com Free pre-recorded CEU classes on such topics as RTI and phonology (most are designed around products that Super Duper carries).

*www.care2learn.com \$19 - \$56 for online pre-recorded courses

*<http://www.onlineceus.com> \$30 - \$150 for courses lasting two to eight hours. Pre-recorded.



Orange County Department of Education
Educational Technology Professional Development

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

Orange County Department of Education: A Hidden Treasure for Technology Purchases and Training!

Have you heard about the OCDE's Technology Department's offerings? Along with instruction in the basics (Powerpoint, Office, Excel,) they also offer a number of courses on using available technology such as Smart Boards and document cameras. Several of our clinicians are taking a course next week on using an iPad in education. Attendees can either bring their own iPad for a low fee, or purchase a brand new unit as part of the course. Courses are available at the Costa Mesa location, or through webinars. In these days of stretching dollars and learning new technology, we thought this was a great opportunity!

http://register.ocde.us/dev_students.asp?action=browse&misc=294



Are you just beginning to use an iPhone, iPodtouch, or iPad? Many schools and parents are discovering these tools as effective methods to make therapy more motivating, especially for kids who are on the autism spectrum. As professionals, this aspect of our field is evolving faster than lightning, and simply visiting the iTunes store (currently containing 250,000 applications) is overwhelming. How do we keep up? Answer-in small bites.

The [Moms with Apps](#) site describes a small number of applications in detail, as well as offers App Friday, when developers offer free subscriptions to applications on iTunes. Be sure to review their articles on "Evaluating Educational Apps" and also "Should You Buy That App?"



Matchmaker, Matchmaker!

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. matches high quality speech pathologists and speech assistants on a contractual basis to schools who have a part or full time vacancy. Are you interested in hearing more about us? As of the time of publication, we have a fascinating part/full time opportunity for an SLP in Central Orange County, as well as a part time opportunity off the 91 and the 55 freeways.

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.

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

Where do New York City kids learn their multiplication tables?
Times Square

What's the best place to grow flowers in school?
In kindergarden.

Why do elephants have wrinkles?
Ever tried to iron an elephant?

What did the math book say to the other math book?
"Man, you've got so many problems!"

What do you call cheese that isn't yours?
Nacho cheese!

Where do pencils come from?
PENCILvania!