Happy New Year- Center Hours

Friendly reminder the Columbus Speech & Hearing Center will be closed on Monday, January 18th in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The center will be open as scheduled on Tuesday, January 19th.

If you have any questions please call 614-263-5151.

Article of the Month

Phonological Awareness
Skills

By: Lora McConnell, MS, CCC-SLP

Children playing with...sounds?!?!

When most of us think about children playing, we usually think about things like blocks, puzzles, and other toys. But it’s also important for young children (and their families) to play with sounds – the sounds in their language. Doing so not only helps children learn how to pronounce these speech sounds but also helps them to become readers as well. Learning to read and write starts long before kindergarten and has long-lasting effects. Learning to play with sounds (also called “Phonological Awareness skills”) is one of the key skills of children ages 0-5 that predict later reading success. A more formal definition of Phonological Awareness is the auditory processing of spoken language (not of written language) and understanding that spoken language can be divided and manipulated into smaller components (sentences, phrases, words, syllables, phoneme clusters; individual phonemes).

Areas included in the skill of phonological awareness are:

- rhyme (discrimination (“Do book and cook rhyme?”) and production (“Tell me a word that rhymes with bee”))
- segment (clapping out words in sentences, number of syllables, phonemes)
- isolation (tell the beginning/middle/end sounds in a word) and recognizing when words share phonemes (‘ball’ and ‘bat’) (also known as “alliteration”)
- deletion of syllables (“Say ‘cowboy’. Now say it again but don’t say ‘boy’”) and phonemes (“Say ‘fox’. Now say it again but don’t say ‘f’”)
- blending (“win—dow ” is “window” and “b—oy” is “boy”)

There are many ways to incorporate phonological awareness skills into your daily play with your child. Many nursery rhymes include rhyming words that you can point out to your child as you read as well as words beginning with the same sounds. You can clap out long and short words and talk about them (e.g. “cat” vs. “ballerina”). You can take turns naming as many words as you can think of that begin (or end) with the same sound (ball, baby, book, etc.). You can play “I’m thinking of an animal that barks and begins with the “d” sound. You can play “I’m going on a trip and I’m taking a....” using rhyming words, words beginning with the same sound, only 1 syllable words, etc. Books are a fantastic resource for talking about and pointing out all of these skills. Talk back and forth into a play microphone or wooden spoon or in front of a mirror. You can play these games in the
car or while in the bathtub or anywhere! Have fun!

Fun Reading Resources and Ideas:

- [Reading Rockets website](#)
- [Get Ready To Read - www.getreadytoread.org](#)
- [Reading is Fundamental website- www.rif.org](#)
- [Reading Resource website- readingresource.net](#)
- [www.starfall.com](#)

**Click here to check out CSHC's Literacy Page on Pinterest.**

**Click here to check out CSHC's favorite books page on Pinterest!**

**Sign of the Month**

Winter is here so let's talk about it with our sign of the month, "snow"!
Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow....

**Click here for fun winter activities!**

**News From Around the Center**

Congratulations to CSHC's Audiology Department for being recognized as a Top Hearing Specialist Practice in CBUS Top Picks in December
2020!
Way to go Audio!!

Click here to go to CSHC's website to learn about all of our Audiology Services

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**National Stuttering Association Meeting**

January's NSA meeting will be a virtual Zoom on Thursday, January 7th at 7 PM. Current NSA members will receive an email invite to this meeting.

If you are interested in attending your first NSA meeting please email Anna Lichtenstein at alichtenstein@columbusspeech.org.

Check out this flyer for more information about NSA.

Click here to check out FRIENDS website for additional upcoming events this month.

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**Chatterboxes**

If you are interested in talking with a license slp about your child's development as part of our Chatterbox Program please email Lora McConnell at lmcconnell@columbusspeech.org.

Click here for more information regarding our Chatterbox program.

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**Thank You For Your Support!**
As a non-profit organization we are proud to serve those in need through the support of donors. Speech, language and hearing problems affect one of every 10 people, and the impact is profound at any age. The funding we receive from donors ensures that all individuals, regardless of age, race, gender identity, income and insurance, are provided quality care enabling them to achieve their full potential as members of this community.

We’ve always known our team was special. Their commitment to serving their community to ensure everyone has the resources they need to overcome communication challenges has been the back bone of our organization for 98 years. But, 2020 has shown just how committed they truly are. A true passion for helping and providing hope has guided our team through this unpredictable year.

Our services ensure that no child or adult’s communication is hindered during these socially distant times. The support we’ve received ensures that we can serve during these unprecedented times, and continue to serve well-beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

So, THANK YOU, to our team, our clients, patients and students, our donors, our community partners, and all of our supporters.

Find out what is happening this month at Columbus Speech & Hearing Center by following us on Facebook. 
*Click here to visit our Facebook Page*

Or

Check out fun recipes, experiments, and crafts on Instagram @columbusspeech.