Visual Supports in the Classroom

By Julie Aills, M.S. CCC-SLP

One of our wonderful and talented speech therapists, Danielle Nader, was a presenter at OCALICON this year. OCALICON is a 3-day conference for related professionals and families of individuals with autism, sensory disabilities, and low-incidence disabilities. One of Danielle’s presentations focused on the importance of using visuals aids in the classroom. Here are some highlights and key take-a-ways from her presentation!

**WHAT are visuals supports?**
Visual supports are things that we see that enhance the communication process

**WHY should visual supports be used in the classroom?**
So much of communication is non-verbal….meaning it’s visual!
- Gestures, facial expressions, body movement and objects in the environment

Portray expectations and teach routines
- Visuals schedules allow children to predict and anticipate what will happen

Teach positive behaviors or new skills
- Visuals can teach vocabulary, sequencing and cause and effect

Empower children to learn
- Using visuals as a way to teach children how to make a choice EMPOWERS the child

Choices provide an opportunity to communicate when a child might
Helps teachers and teams run a more efficient classroom

- Visuals can have a big impact on teachers and classroom efficiency! They reduce the need to repeat verbal directions, increase the time students stay on task and improve classroom management.

**HOW can visual supports be used in the classroom?**

- **Visual schedules:** Can be used for schedules (what is going to happen throughout the day) and routines (the “in between” steps to get you from one task to another).

- **First-then boards:** Can be used to manage behaviors (e.g. first clean up, then outside), teach a sequence (e.g. first soap then water) or teach a new skill (e.g. setting the table).

- **Making Choices:** Make sure to follow through with the child’s choice, even if it seems the choice was made by accident!

- **Managing behaviors and expectations:** Teaching acceptable vs. unacceptable behaviors within routines in a way that is not disruptive to the rest of the class.

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**Staff Spotlight**

**Julie Aills, M.S. CCC-SLP**

Julie is this month's writer of our "Visual Supports in the Classroom" TTTG article. Julie has been part of the CS&HC speech team since July of 2018!

Julie's areas of expertise include: Fluency Disorders, Pragmatic Language Disorders and Auditory Processing Disorders.

Julie's favorite conference was about implementing the Social Thinking curriculum with Michelle Garcia Winner
Click here to learn more about Social Thinking.

Julie's favorite picture book is *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury.

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**Earth Day Fun and Speech Therapy**
Books, crafts, and exploring seeds to target a variety of speech goals: following multi-step directions to create an Earth Day hat, using sequential concepts to describe how an apple tree grows, making predictions of what will happen next in the book and with the seeds when you plant them, and describing what a seed looks and feels like.

Having fun following multi-step directions with visuals to create a yummy Earth Day snack. Check out our Pinterest page for more fun activities to target speech therapy goals in the home.

Congratulations to Anna Lichtenstein for presenting as a part of the World Voice Day Conference put on by the Department of Otolaryngology at OSU’s Wexner Medical Center.

Check out the conference line up with her presentation listed: https://wexnermedical.osu.edu/departments/otolaryngology/education/conference/world-voice-day-conference

Summer Speech Groups

Summer Speech Therapy Groups are running June 10th thru August 16th.

To find out more about our group programs check out our website www.columbusspeech.org or call 614-263-5151.
Do you shop at Lucky's Market?  
Help us win the Lucky's Bags for Change contest! Just bring in reusable bags when you shop. You'll receive tokens to vote with. The nonprofit with the most tokens at the end of the contest wins the grand prize!

Inspirational Saying

It takes a big heart to help shape little minds.

Mark your Calendars....

National Stuttering Association Meeting

The National Stuttering Association Columbus Chapter meets at CS&HC the 1st Thursday of every month from 7-8 PM. Join us on Thursday, May 2nd for this month's meeting.

Check out this flyer for more
CSHC's speechies, Anna Lichtenstein and Lauren Polster, with NSA group members at the FRIENDS Stutter Step 5k on April 13th. Thank you for representing CS&HC and the Columbus Chapter of the NSA!!!

CS&HC's 12th Annual Golf Event

Our 12th annual golf event will take place on May 20th, 2019 at The Lakes Golf and Country Club in Westerville. The funds we raise at this event (over $100,000 last year) help us continue to provide services to those in need! If interested in attending, volunteering, or donating for this event please contact Clay Parlette at cparlette@columbusspeech.org.

Autism Diagnostic Clinic
The Columbus Speech & Hearing Center's Autism Diagnostic Clinic is currently scheduling evaluations for May 2019. Please call 614-263-5151 to schedule or ask any questions about our clinic.

[Click here to see CSHC's Autism Diagnostic Clinic Flier.]

[Click here to see red flags for Autism.]

[Meet our ADC Team!]

[Chatterboxes!]

Meet and chat with a Speech- Language Pathologist from Columbus Speech & Hearing Center for a casual Q & A about your child's speech and language development and how you can naturally support your child's speech and development during every day routines and activities.

This Month's Chatterboxes:

- Thursday, May 2nd at Hilliard Library from 9:45- 10:45 AM
- Thursday, May 9th at Westerville City Library from 9:45 - 10:45 AM
- Thursday, May 16th at Whetstone Library from 10:30- 11:30 AM
- Thursday, May 23rd at Firefly Play Cafe' from 10- 11 AM

Please contact Lora McConnell at (614) 261-5462 or lmcconnell@columbusspeech.org if you are interested in scheduling a Chatterbox event at your location!
Find out what is happening this month below! To stay updated on all the things going on around the Center, like us on Facebook.

Click here to visit our Facebook

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**WE are proud to partner with Columbus Speech & Hearing Center for the Great Communicators Golf Classic.**

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