

Wee Speech /Timber Ridge News

June 2011

Picnic

We had a beautiful day, great food and a visit from creatures furry and scaly! Check out the pictures in the Wee Speech website photo gallery.

Summer Schedule

Summer schedule will begin the week of June 13th. Please let your therapist know of any upcoming vacations or changes to the schedule.

On the Waiting Room Book Shelf

Coloring Outside Autism's Lines by Susan Walton is a book written by the Mom of a child with autism. It is full of "Activities, Adventures and Celebrations for Families with Children with Autism". Walton offers suggestions and ideas to make these "adventures" enjoyable for the whole family.

Julie Levin, Laura Drower
Wee Speech, P.C.

June Birthdays!

Jacob S.	6/2
Andrew A.	6/5
Jaxon A.	6/11
Ben A.	6/17
Kenneth S.	6/27
Rachel D.	6/28
Noah P.	6/30



Web Site

Guess How Many?

Gedalya S. is the winner of our May Guess How Many? Congratulations Gedalya! Each month we fill our Guess How Many Jar with some fun items and children are encouraged to fill out a slip with their guess (**Don't forget your last name or initial.**). The envelope for guesses is on the bulletin board in the Clinic waiting room. The drawing is at the end of the month and a special prize awaits the winner!! Good Luck!!

www.weespeech.com

Come check out our updated website! Print some pages from the Word Wall. Read about the iPad /iPhone App of the month. Listen to some speech and language related podcasts. Browse through the related Websites. Explore!!

Therapist Corner

Getting Your Employer to Cover Speech, Language, and Hearing Services

A Checklist for Consumers

While many health insurance plans and managed care organizations recognize the importance of hearing and speech-language services, your current health plan may not offer comprehensive benefits. Here is a "checklist" that will assist you in approaching your employer to obtain or improve coverage.

Review Your Employee Health Plan Benefits

- If speech, language and hearing services are already covered, could they be better?
- Use the brochure, [Making Sense of your Health Insurance Plan](#) [PDF], to help your evaluation.

Get an "Employer Insurance Packet"

- Call the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association 800-638-8255 and ask for the "Employer Insurance Packet." You may also view an electronic version of the packet online at www.asha.org.
- Review the information that is of interest to you.
- Use this information when making an appointment and when meeting with your employer's representative.

Identify the Person You Should Talk to

- Identify the person at your workplace who makes decisions about employee health benefits. It might be the human resources director, benefits specialist, union representative, or company president.

Schedule a Meeting

- Set up a meeting to introduce yourself and open a discussion about your concerns regarding speech-language and hearing coverage. Focus on one or two issues that are top priority for you.
- Invite co-workers who share interest in this coverage to attend the meeting with you. Select a spokesperson and prepare some notes to help you "stay on message." Limit the number of employees at the meeting to four. You may have only 10 to 20 minutes for the entire meeting.
- Bring the Employer Insurance Packet with you and give it to the benefits specialist at the end of the meeting. We encourage you to "keep possession" of the Packet until the end of the meeting in order to focus on your key points.

Topics to Discuss at the Meeting

Select, in advance of the meeting, the issues below that are most important to you:

- Briefly discuss the ASHA brochure "Speech, Language, Hearing Health Plan Benefits." Focus on the section "How Communication Disorders Affect People's Lives" or use your own personal experiences to describe the impact of communication disorders.
- Mention how evaluation and treatment of an employee's or dependent's hearing loss or other communication disorders can improve or enhance employee morale, performance, and productivity. The statistics will be in the packet you leave behind.
- Use statistics to support your argument:

- Explain that 1 out of 10 Americans have a hearing loss of some kind; nearly 1 in 20 suffer from a speech-language disorder;
- A wealth of research shows that speech and hearing services make a difference. Cite the Efficacy Summaries contained in the packet;
- An actuarial report shows that a typical employer-sponsored speech and hearing benefit provided by speech-language pathologists and audiologists should cost less than 35 cents per member per month.
- An ASHA survey shows that 82% of Fortune 1000 companies cover speech-language pathology and audiology services.
- Some employers may ask why children's services should be covered in the company health plan when these services are provided by the public schools? Explain that clinics, hospitals, health departments, and private practices provide speech-language pathology and audiology services beyond what may be available in public schools.
- Invite the employer to contact your SLP or audiologist to learn more about their services.

Follow-up

- Send a thank you note (written or e-mail). Thank him or her for considering the addition of these benefits.
- Tell your co-workers about the importance of coverage for these services and ask them to contact the person you met with to support this expansion of coverage.