



Literacy and Language| Insurance Updates 2020 | Upcoming Events and Parent Resources| Special Edition: Teletherapy



In honor of Dr. Suess and Read Across America, this month's focus is on literacy. Language and literacy development are tied together during early childhood development. They involve development of the skills used to communicate with others through language, as well as the ability to read and write (literacy development). Language develops through children's interactions with other people around them. For example, a baby hears his or her mother talk directly to him or her, as well as to other people. Hearing the mother's speech may encourage a baby to try to imitate the sounds that he or she hears over time. Furthermore, the baby will quickly learn which words are connected to certain objects or people, and which words may produce particular responses from others.

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write. In early childhood literacy can develop through hearing stories read from books and showing children pictures with words. Some simple ways that caregivers can help support the language and literacy development within early childhood are as follows: 1.) Incorporate books and reading into daily routines, like a part of a child's bedtime ritual. 2.) Use all forms of verbal expression to read to children, including reading, singing, and conversing about the content of books. 3.) Make a connection between the stories in books and the child's life. 4.) As children get older, show them the words that you are reading, as you read them. 5.) Keep children engaged in reading by asking them questions along the way, or letting them tell stories.

Two of the biggest benefits of encouraging reading and supporting literacy based activities include a more robust vocabulary and modeling and creation of proper grammar and syntax.

www.tlcspeechct.com

Special Edition **Parent Resources to support skills while there is no school due to COVID-19**

*FREE learning websites for kids:

Nat Geo for Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

Suessville
www.seussville.com

PBS Kids
www.pbs.org

Star Fall
www.starfall.com



Tentative Upcoming Events for TLC...

(Given current restrictions from the COVID-19 virus, we are unsure if these events will be cancelled or rescheduled.)

April 26th- TLC will participate in the ASRC's walk for Autism. Team #TLC4ASD, will proudly walked the streets of Wallingford and the beautiful Choate Rosemary Hall Campus. We want to create and even big team, so please sign up at the office or

Storyline Online
www.storylineonline.net

Highlights Kids
www.highlightskids.com

Scholastic
www.scholastic.com/learnathome

*Many Facebook sites are having virtual field trip and live zoo experiences. Chris Field will provide "A Week of Awesome Afternoon Adventures!" From 3/16-3/20 kids can go on a "live" adventure with amazing people! (Monday - an exotic animal; Tuesday - a local policeman will give a tour of his police car and share all about how our policemen spend their days; Wednesday - kid's yoga; Thursday - an adventure in Ghana, Africa; Friday - an online art class. Please note: All of these classes will be FREE and available on the free ZOOM app which is available on both phone and PC. Each adventure will last between 30-45 minutes.

email Lynn if you would like to join TLC's team for this fun event.

May- Better Speech and Hearing Month
TLC will be celebrating this month by helping our community. We believe very strongly in early identification and intervention and will offer free screenings at the Parks and Recreation in conjunction with the Wallingford Department of Public Health. Please share this free service with anyone, from anywhere, who you think may need it!

Also, May 14th is Apraxia Awareness Day. We will be working to educate people of this motor speech disorder, and ways to support those who have this diagnosis.

Registration is open for iCan Bike Program through the Miracle League of CT. The program is in West Hartford (7/27-31) and East Lyme (8/10-14). For more information visit:

<http://www.miracleleaguect.org/icanbike>

*SPECIAL EDITION- TELETHERAPY



Telepractice is the use of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance by linking clinician to client or clinician to clinician for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation. Use of teletherapy must be equivalent to the quality of services provided in person and consistent with adherence to the *Code of Ethics* (ASHA, 2016a), *Scope of Practice in Audiology* (ASHA, 2018), *Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology* (ASHA, 2016b), state and federal laws (e.g., licensure, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, n.d.-c]), and ASHA policy.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, TLC Speech is branching out to include this so our clients do not go too long without therapy. We will be offering synchronous (client interactive) services via a platform which is HIPAA compliant. Billing for services, co-pays/co-insurances, and deductibles are not altered when

delivering therapy via this model. Our services will be conducted with interactive audio and video connection in real time to create an in-person experience similar to that achieved in a traditional encounter.

Teletherapy is not appropriate for all clients, and will be assessed by clinician and therapist. Furthermore, teletherapy may require a facilitator with the child to support the implementation of therapy. For more information, please call us, or email Lynn at lynn.lavalley@tlcspeechct.com.

TLC Updates

INSURANCE UPDATES 2020

In light of COVID-19 and our practice offering teletherapy, please note that co-pays, deductibles, and co-insurances remain the same. (They will be billed at the end of the month.) Teletherapy is processed the same by



In our window this month are Lynn's picks for books to promote language and literacy, as well as information on ways to interactively read with your child. Some of her favorite include:

- *Amelia Bedelia books for non-literal language
 - *Magic Tree House books for character feelings
 - *Who Was and What Was series for non-fiction
 - *Diary of a Wimpy Kids and Babysitters Club for graphic novels
- Come visit and see!



TLC prides itself on being an intimate clinic where all families feel welcome. We strive to make each child and caregiver feel welcomed and supported. We'd love to share the wonderful work we do here on the internet, so if you are willing to sign a photo/video release, please do so with your therapist. Don't forget to post and share our social media posts on your page! If you are interested, please feel free to email Lynn LaValley a testimonial about your therapist to be published, and/or rate us on Google.

insurance carriers. If you are participating in Teletherapy, please return consent form to your therapist, or Lynn.

Please contact Lynn regarding any concerns you have regarding billing or insurance.

