

SPECIAL REPORT

The One REALLY Important Thing You Must Understand About Your Child's Speech and Language Problems



Horizons 
Developmental Remediation Center

3120 68th Street SE, Caledonia, MI 49316
Phone (616) 698-0306 info@horizonsdrc.com

By Nicole Beurkens, M.Ed., Director

The One REALLY Important Thing You Must Understand About Your Child's Speech and Language Problems

When your child has a speech and language delay, it can be very frustrating for both you and your child! For those of us who have never experienced the exasperation of not being understood, or of not being able to find the right words, it can be very difficult to know how to help. ***Here is what you must know*** if your child has an articulation disorder, word finding difficulties, processing delays, or difficulty with grammar:

Parental involvement is the key to success!

Often times when your child receives speech and language therapy, you take him/her to the speech and language pathologist's office where they go into a little room while you spend time in the waiting area. Your child emerges half an hour later, and you go on your way not really sure of what happened during that time. Let's face it—speech and language pathologists are not magicians! They cannot correct a speech and

language delay in thirty minutes of therapy one time per week. What they can do, however, is teach you the tools to help improve your child's speech and language in the many hours a week that you spend with him/her.

You are your child's best teacher; and if given the proper tools and guidance, you can make all the difference in your child's speech and language development!

Consistent practice is the true key to improving any speech and language delay. When armed with the proper tools, parents are equipped to supervise the consistent practice that will allow their child to make the kind of improvements necessary to correct the delay. We all know the old adage that practice makes perfect, and in this case that is true. ***For true carry-over and mastery to be achieved, the child needs to be working on correcting the delay every day.***

In order for children to have consistent daily practice opportunities, parents need to be an essential part of their child's speech and language therapy sessions. This can be done by having the parent attend the entire session with the child, or by having the parent participate for some time at the end of each session. ***Parents must leave the sessions having learned the***

strategies that were used that day, and with an understanding of the homework that is to be completed.

You now have the basic information you need to understand the importance of parental involvement in speech and language therapy.

The next step is for you to **contact a therapist who will involve you in the therapy** for effectively addressing your child's speech and

language delay. You can get all of the information and support you

need to **start this process by calling the Horizons team at (616)**

698-0306 or sending an email to speech@horizonsdrc.com. We

look forward to helping you and your child get on the path to improving

your child's speech and language development.



www.horizonsdrc.com

(616) 698-0306

info@horizonsdrc.com