



# ASPIRE SPEECH & LEARNING CENTER

# Newsletter

May 3, 2019

## Announcements

Better Hearing & Speech  
Month!

May 13: Two Crafty Mamas  
Sign up for a half hour segment

Times: 1:00-2:30

4:00-5:30

Admittance: \$5 per student

Call for questions and sign up!



**COMMUNICATION  
ACROSS THE LIFESPAN**

Better Hearing & Speech Month

### Speech and Language Disorders Are Experienced by Many Children—But Are Treatable

With speech and language disorders ranking among the most common disabilities in children, parents and caregivers are encouraged to learn the signs—and seek an evaluation—if they have concerns about their child's ability to communicate.

Speech and language disorders are evaluated and treated by Speech-Language Pathologists. Speech is the ability to produce speech sounds using the mouth, lips, and tongue. A child may say sounds the wrong way, repeat sounds and words, or be otherwise difficult to understand. Language is the ability to use and put words together—and to understand others' words. Early speech and language treatment sets a child up for future school and social success.

Here are some warning signs for parents to watch for in young children:

- Makes only a few sounds or gestures, like pointing (7–12 months)
- Does not understand what others say (7 months–2 years)
- Says only a few words (12–18 months)
- Does not put words together to make sentences (1.5–3 years)
- Produces speech that is unclear, even to familiar people (2–3 years)

For school-age children, warning signs may include the following:

- Has trouble following directions
- Has problems reading and writing
- Does not always understand what others say
- Is not understood by others
- Has trouble talking about thoughts or feelings

Tips to encourage a child's communication development:

- Talk, read, and play with your child
- Listen and respond to what your child says
- Talk with your child in the language that you are most comfortable using
- Talk about what you do and what your child does during the day
- Use a lot of different words with your child
- Use longer sentences as your child gets older

Although treatment ideally begins early—in the toddler years—it is never too late to get treatment. The large majority of parents report significant improvement after treatment. Families can learn more and find help at <http://IdentifytheSigns.org> and [www.asha.org/public](http://www.asha.org/public).

- For the full article see our blog at [www.aspirespeech.com](http://www.aspirespeech.com)



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## Staff Spotlight

### Allison Stoddard, MA CCC-SLP

Allison is a Speech-Language Pathologist who received both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree from California State University, Fresno. She is a Central Valley native, born and raised in Los Banos.

Allison has worked in the field of speech pathology for the past 6 years; serving children and adults within the community. She enjoys helping her clients improve their communication and life skills; helping them achieve their full potential, and improving the quality of life for her clients and their families.

In her spare time she enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, and attending local social events.

