



Online Resources for Parents and Professionals

by Jennifer Vroom, M.S., CCC-SLP

With millions of websites in existence, finding helpful speech-language information online may feel like searching for a needle in a haystack. In an effort to ease your frustration, here's a list of some non-profit educational links covering major areas in speech-language therapy and a brief description of what each site has to offer.

Language, Articulation, and More:

Kid Source OnLine™ (www.kidsource.com): Search topics on this webpage and link to related articles for individuals from birth through high school. The site includes parenting tips, a developmental language chart, an online store, organizations to contact, as well as a forum for users to discuss issues.

Speechville Express (www.speech-express.com): This free resource for families, educators, and medical professionals contains information about articulation, language development, apraxia, stuttering, and other areas within the realm of speech-language pathology. Just take a ride to visit places like:

- **The Communication Station:** Lists local and regional support groups.
- **Education Station:** Displays general questions and answers with links to other helpful resources.
- **Diagnosis Destinations:** Click on topics (e.g., apraxia, articulation disorders) to read definition and examples.
- **The MarketPlace:** Advertises used therapy equipment and toys.

Apraxia:

Apraxia-Kids (www.apraxia-kids.org): Whether you're a family member, caregiver, or professional, this site provides helpful information on apraxia including:

- FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and answers about apraxia.
- An online monthly newsletter.
- The latest on apraxia research.
- Families sharing their stories related to apraxia.
- A message board and e-mail discussion group.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (www.apraxia.org): CASANA serves as a support system for anyone working with a child affected by apraxia. This site gives:

- News updates.
- Programs and activities for families and professionals.
- A description of apraxia, as well as the effects of apraxia on children/families/professionals.

Autism:

Autism Society of America (www.autism-society.org): ASA believes in empowering individuals and families of those with autism. By increasing their awareness of current research, various treatments and opinions regarding different methods, ASA supports a “parent choice” philosophy. Users may access these links and more:

- General information about Autism including, “Understanding Autism,” “Treatment and Education,” “Living with Autism,” and “Resources.”
- Local Chapters of ASA, which are listed by state.
- Information on advocating for the Autism community.
- Resources for parents, care providers, and related professionals.

O.A.S.I.S. (www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/): Designed by parents of children with Asperger Syndrome, the Online Asperger Syndrome Information & Support homepage presents educational information and links for anyone interested in learning more about this area. Users may access the O.A.S.I.S. bookstore, message boards, and read the latest news on Asperger Syndrome.

Stuttering/Fluency

National Stuttering Association (www.westutter.org): The NSA conducts monthly chapter meetings across the United States. The group advocates self-help and education on stuttering, provides national and local support, and strives to increase public awareness/understanding. The site includes helpful information for families, related professionals, and individuals of all ages who stutter.

Stuttering Foundation of America (www.stuttersfa.org): Working towards better prevention and treatment of stuttering, the SFA advertises itself as the first nonprofit charitable organization on stuttering in the world. They offer the following services:

- **Referral Lists** - organizes Speech-Language Pathologists by state and country.
- **Library Lists** - shows which public libraries carry the Foundation’s materials.
- **Online catalog** - includes books, videotapes, and workbooks.
- **Free Information Packets and brochures.**
- **“What’s New”** - view the SFA newsletter and links to other newsworthy articles on stuttering related products and events.

Hearing Impaired Resources:

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (www.agbell.org): As an information and support center, AG Bell promotes spoken language for individuals with hearing loss. The group hosts educational conferences, workshops, and biennial international conventions posted on their site. Members of AG Bell include parents, adults who are deaf or hard of hearing, educators, audiologists, SLPs, and other related fields.

Auditory-Verbal International, Inc. (www.auditory-verbal.org): The philosophy that children who are deaf and hard of hearing should make use of even minimal amounts of hearing through cochlear implants or other types of amplification, serves as the driving force behind AVI. Their site posts auditory-verbal news, information on certification, conferences, scholarships, a parent page, and much more.

Parents:

Easter Seals (www.easter-seals.org): Devoted to helping individuals of all ages with special needs and their families, Easter Seals provides services to improve independence and overall quality of life. They offer services such as medical rehab, childcare, adult day programs, camping/recreation, etc. Other information found on the site covers:

- Legislative action.
- Job opportunities.
- Resources.

Down Syndrome (www.nas.com/downsyn): Composed of experiences shared by parents and professionals, the site's creators help families not only cope with this diagnosis, but also realize the full potential of individuals with Down Syndrome. Users can learn more about healthcare guidelines, international organizations, inclusion & education, and parent matching or support groups.

Professionals:

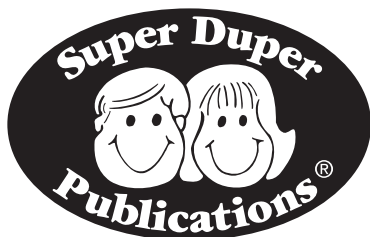
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (www.asha.org): The professional and credentialing association for Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists across the U.S., which serves to educate ASHA members, students, and the general public on the following, though not limited to ethical issues, membership & certification, legislation & advocacy, events in the news, and finding a professional in your area.

Council for Exceptional Children (www.cec.sped.org): This international organization dedicates itself to improving the educational development of children with disabilities, children who are gifted, and those with other exceptionalities. The CEC also provides professional services such as:

- Professional opportunities and resources.
- Journals and newsletters with updates on research findings, policies, etc.
- Special Ed. publications.
- Conventions and Conferences.

Name

Date



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