



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As Kindergarten is one of the most exciting times in a child's life, the understanding and use of good oral communications skills is essential. Sometimes, children have trouble with speech (the "how-to" of talking). This involves the coordination of the muscles and movements necessary to produce speech sounds. Children may have trouble with their language (the ability to understand what he/she hears or sees). The child may struggle to find the right words and/or organize those words in a meaningful way to communicate a message or hold a conversation.

We are fortunate to have the services of our RVS Speech-Language Pathologists for the month of June, 2010 to provide screening/assessment of your child prior to entering kindergarten. A speech-language pathologist (SLP) is a highly-trained professional who evaluates and treats children who have difficulty with their speech and/or language.

The main purpose of a speech and language screening and/or assessment is to develop an understanding of your child's oral communication abilities and needs and in turn your child's educational/intervention needs. Your child may require more in-depth evaluation but this does not necessarily mean that your child will require intervention. Evaluations are individually based and may vary depending on how many tests and the type of test the SLP gives.

The following are possible reasons a child may need a speech/language evaluation:

- He/she can't say certain sounds (i.e. "tat" for "cat"/ "wight" for "light")
- People are having trouble understanding his/her speech
- He/she is having trouble understanding what is said to them
- He/she can't express what they want to say to others
- He/she has a prolonged hoarse vocal quality
- He/she repeats too many words or phrases when speaking

Please feel free to request an evaluation if you have concerns about your child's speech/language development. To schedule an appointment please contact the SLP below:

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