



Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc.

Serving Southern California Schools for 25 Years.

Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. April 2015

WOW - CSHA was terrific! Thank you to the CSHA staff, the volunteers, and the amazing speakers for an energizing weekend. We would love to hear from our readers about their implementation of lessons learned. In this issue, we're featuring an expansion of the ideas taught in a presentation by Carol Westby on the importance of evaluating and teaching narrative language.



Featured Article: Teaching Narrative Language

When you think about writing and speaking, wouldn't you say that storytelling was the underpinning of nearly every communication?

Are you measuring this skill in your student evaluations? Are you systematically building your student's skills for using personal narratives to address pragmatic and academic needs? The remarkable Carol Westby spoke at CSHA about narrative skills as they relate to the common core curriculum. Here are some application ideas:

*Assess [Narrative Language Measures](#): For under \$10, you can download a full set of criterion referenced tools to measure elementary level skills and progress on retelling a story, answering story comprehension questions, and generating a story based on a personal narrative.

*Build skills using scaffolding and consistent control of the

level of structure. Highly structured: [wordless picture books](#), sequencing cards, story retells, and [videos](#). Less structured: dollhouse and furniture, story starter, a single picture. Unstructured: a set of dolls, a memorable event, no stimulus. Don't forget the older students: [there are fiction and nonfiction wordless books for every interest and age](#).

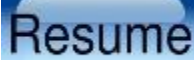
*Link storytelling skills and theory of mind: Use story stimuli to build understanding of motivation, emotions, body language, perspectives, and characterization. Try [printable comic strip style stimuli](#) or creating a [conversational map](#) linking events.

*Use picture books to teach inferencing and comprehension skills. The resources from Wendy Robinson are available on the internet free of charge, and are great examples of how to use books from the school library to [teach vocabulary, inferencing, and other narrative comprehension skills](#).



Featured Website: Lessonpix

At last!! There is now an inexpensive (\$36/year after a trial period) option for picture communication boards that is flexible and extremely intuitive. Hooray! [Lessonpix](#) has a collection of 25,000 color and black and white pictures that can be searched by category, sound or keyword. Choose pictures and drag them to the clipboard. Next, effortlessly create typical visual schedules and PECs cards, as well as dice, bingo boards, graphing sheets, writing pages, and picture books. We love Lessonpix!



Featured CF Tip: Resume Information

What is the most common error that we see on clinician resumes? Answer: the font type and style used for name and contact information! Pull up your resume and ask these questions:

*Is the phone, address, and email contact information at least in 14 point type? Large type maintains legibility after multiple scans, faxes, and copies.

*Did you use black ink vs. grey or shaded colors?

*Is your font so common that even the oldest computers can read your resume? (Many settings choose to spend funds on educational assets vs. buying the latest software for their computers.)

*Is your resume saved using your first and last name? We've received countless files named "resume." Better: Resume-Valente, Louise 4.2015

For more resume and job search tips, visit the [clinical fellowship preparation section](#) of our website.



Featured Building Block Skill: Reduce Negative Self Talk"

"I don't have any friends."

"I'm not good at talking in class."

"I can't do that."

Our students are especially vulnerable to negative self talk. How can we help them replace these messages with a growth mindset, encouraging them to make small step changes? We highly recommend that you take 10 minutes to watch this [TED talk by Carol Dweck](#). Dr. Dweck gives practical examples of how to empower students that you can begin using in your very next session.



Featured Tip to Stay Healthy!

How do you keep yourself healthy when enthusiastic children bring in their germ molecules to you every half hour? This was the subject of a lively discussion on the [Speech Pathologists at Large Facebook Group](#) this month. Our favorite answer came from Meg Frost, who said she buys three different scented sanitizers. The first speech/language activity for every group is to request, turn-take, and discuss the act of squirting their favorite. Wow - great idea! Now we just need to teach them the "Dracula sneeze"... Love the graphic created by the University of Arizona's health center!



About Us-Pacific Coast Speech Services

These quarterly newsletters are conceived and written by [Louise Valente](#), the Director of Staffing at Pacific Coast Speech Services. We focus on sharing practical information you can grab and use TODAY in your clinical practice. When we aren't collecting new ideas for this newsletter, Pacific Coast Speech Services focuses on providing SLPs and SLPA's of excellence to local schools in our area on a contractual basis.

As the last hurdle of testing and IEPs for the school year is in sight, we want to THANK YOU for your readership. Congratulations to the upcoming graduates! Thank you to the Special Ed Coordinators and Directors who work so hard to keep our districts and non public schools afloat. To our school-based SLPs, we calculate that a full time school SLP completes 5,000 therapy hours and 75 IEPs per year. We fully understand how hard you work, and want to remind you that you are making a difference to your students every day!



Jokes for Kids!

We know your favorite part of our newsletter is the kid jokes, but did you know that you can get PCSS curated kid jokes on Twitter? Follow us at [@PCSSinSoCal](https://twitter.com/PCSSinSoCal).

What does the sun drink out of?

Sunglasses!

Where does the catcher sit during dinner?

Behind the plate!

What do you call a cat that falls into the trash can?

Kitty Litter!



Links featured in this newsletter

Narrative Language

<http://www.languagedynamicsgroup.com/storychamps.html>

http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/resources/GB_TalkingAboutWordlessPictureBooks_2006_FamilyLiteracy.pdf

<http://www.storylineonline.net/a-to-z-book-directory/?sort=titleb>

<http://www.storylineonline.net/a-to-z-book-directory/?sort=titleb>

<https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=wordless%20picture%20books>

http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/Printables/PrintablesThumbs.php?category=Your_Life_in_Comics_Girls

<https://jillkuzma.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/conversation-map-bm.pdf>

http://www.calvin.edu/scs/2010/conferences/speechpathology/Kdg.%20Vocab%20Interventions.pdf?hc_location=ufi

Communication picture boards

<http://www.lessonpix.com>

TED Talk by Carol Dweck

http://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve

Speech Pathologist at Large Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2212002912>
