



Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. February 2013 Newsletter



"I have a student with a cochlear implant/hearing aid. What can I do to help?"

Chris Switzer is an SLP who supervises clinicians with DHH students in the schools. Here are her some of her most important insights:

- Testing-Any age appropriate speech and language test can be administered to a DHH student. However, the report must include this statement, "Results must be interpreted with caution, as the DHH student is being compared to hearing peers. Results are a baseline, and used to establish goals."
• Therapy-Spend a few seconds at the beginning of each session with the Ling 6 test. This will ensure the instruments are working properly and may detect other problems with hearing. The Ling 6 is readily available on the internet, and is also available as an iPad application. We like Auditory Verbal by Melissa Eisenburg and Ling 6 Sound Application by Eric Seneca.
• Aid Maintenance-Customized hearing aid molds should be updated for growth every two changes of shoe size. Also be aware of feedback or other indications that a change may be warranted. By third grade, hearing impaired children should be able to manage their aids with independence.
• Therapy-Teach students self-advocacy. Items they can request independently include: asking for appropriate seating, asking teachers to repeat questions/comments made by other students, and asking for writing assignments to be written on the board.
• IEP Goals-Every IEP should have listening goals including items such as idioms, multiple meanings and humor. DHH students miss many incidental learning opportunities. If your district uses SEIS, the AuSpLan goals bank may be helpful. These goals, and material explaining this approach, are also available online.
• Observation-Observe your student in noisy settings like recess and assemblies. Watch students to look for difficulty interpreting directions or peer comments. Ask the student if there is a different program they can switch to for noisier environments. You can also check this with the parent or audiologist.
• FM Systems-IEPs often specify an FM system-a microphone that connects wirelessly to their hearing aid or cochlear implant. Students may resist wearing these systems, especially in middle and high school. Monitor FM system use carefully without embarrassing students or violating their confidentiality. If there is resistance to wearing the FM system, the team might discuss a use/wear schedule. For example, "As long as your grades are a B or better, you may wear it only in core classes."
• Teacher Education-Consider a quick in-service for teachers on improving auditory comprehension, both for students with hearing impairments and those with comprehension issues. Touch on the basics, such as "when you repeat information, slow it down" or "add more context if a student is having trouble understanding" or "get the student's attention before giving directions."
• iPads-There are many fun applications to reinforce listening and discrimination skills. Some apps we like are PeekABoo, I Hear Ewe, and Sound Book.

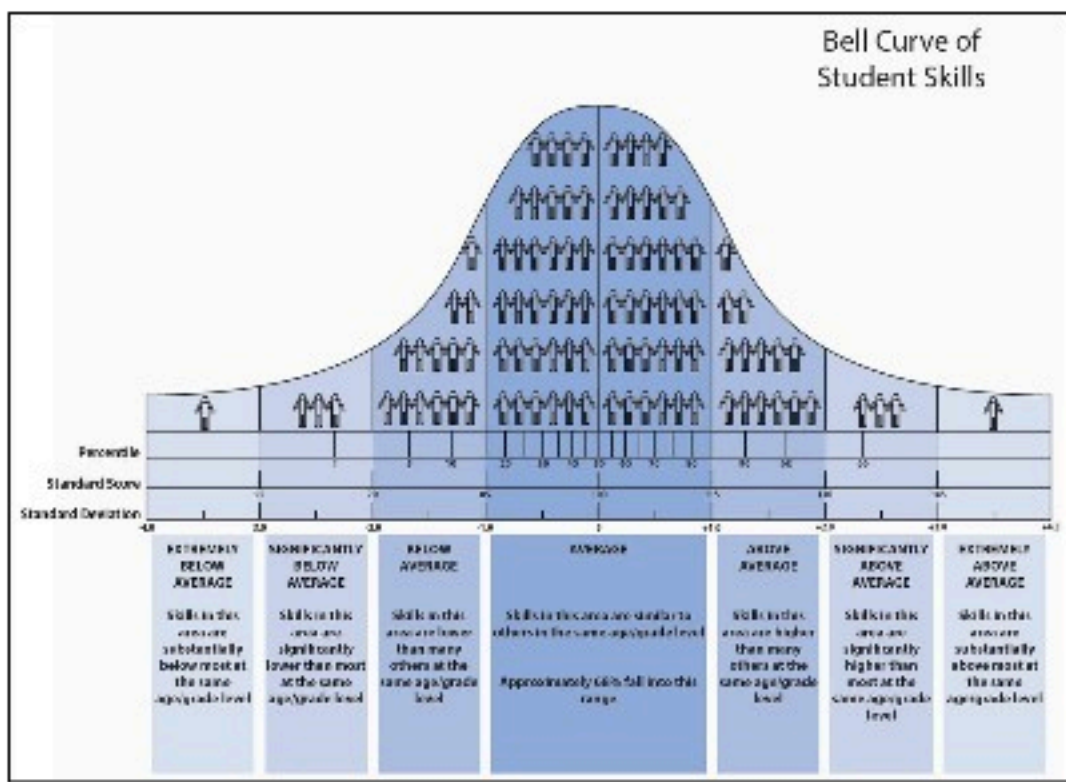
Thanks Chris for these great tips!



Have you visited our website lately? We have revamped it completely, adding an extensive resource collection for both experienced clinicians and those new to the field. Need tips on choosing a clinical fellowship? Looking for resources for parent support? Seeking links to CEU providers? Check out our resources, sign up for this newsletter, or investigate contracting through Pacific Coast Speech Services! We'd love your feedback!



The annual CSHA convention is coming to beautiful Long Beach March 7-10! Have you registered yet? The speakers look intriguing, with a particular focus on common core standards, technology for SLPs, and improving our teaching of pragmatic skills. Coupled with receptions for each district and other special events, it will be exciting! Pacific Coast Speech Services will be in the Exhibit Hall in Booth #100, just a few booths down from Social Thinking. We will be giving away two school tools-a bell curve handout for use in IEPs and our ever-popular IEP calculation wheels. We are also raffling off an iPad Mini! Come Visit Us!



Our newly designed bell curve, including a sample script for discussing test results.

Available at CSHA Booth #100.



Many of us use Super Duper products regularly, but did you know they have over 300 handouts for parents, teachers, and SLPs? Each one answers a common question, such as "Are my Child's Language Skills Developing Normally" or Helpful Strategies for the Active Learner (ADHD)." Nearly all are in both Spanish and English - Wow! Thank you Super Duper for being such an integral part of our SLP community for over 20 years.



Jokes for Kids

Why was the broom late for work? He swept in!

What's an alien's favorite key on the computer? The space bar!

What day does a fish hate? FRYday!

What does the queen bee sit on? Her BEEhind!

Why can't you tell an egg jokes? Because it will crack up.

What kind of car does Minnie Mouse have? A mini van.