

JUNE 15

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER! Hooray!

How are you going to fill these sunny summer days? Will you sink your toes in the sand with a good book, diving into the [125 Best Books to Read this Summer](#) or joining an [online book club for fiction loving speech pathologists](#)? How about diving deep to learn a new skill, such as [Photoshop](#) or [rock climbing](#)?

If you plan to reinvent some therapy ideas you could break into your Pinterest project file, and finally use boards [like this one](#) to collect clear and humorous pictures for language and social skills therapy? (Hint: this particular pinner, SLP teacher, told me that she finds a pin on her board and simply enlarges it on her computer screen as a discussion point or story starter.) Thanks SLP teacher!



PRACTICAL FIDGETS FOR OLDER STUDENTS

Speech pathologists are always learning, and summer is a great time to mull over your caseload: what students were toughest, and how can you serve them better next year? Many of the SLPs in our practice are slowly building their knowledge of sensory strategies.

A question was posed on [ASHA Special Interest Group 16: School-based Issues](#) about older students. What can you provide to an older student to keep their hands busy while being conscious of social acceptability? Would one of these work for your students? Could you use your visits to the dollar store to collect some helpful items?

- Jewelry: Leather bracelet; stretchy tennis sweatband;

spinning rings (available on Amazon); dream catcher bracelet; [weighted pocket scarf](#)

- Pocket Tools: Square of felt, pipe cleaner, metal binder ring with pony beads, worry beads, thumb coin, stretchy key chains, [Bendaroos](#), paper clips, found objects from nature such as acorns

Students will be more successful if they understand the difference between a fidget and a distractor, and are prepared to explain how it helps to teachers/students who question them.



Featured Website: Basic and Advanced AAC!

Looking for an information clearinghouse for anything AAC? One of the brilliant CF candidates we interviewed raved about www.praAACticalaac.org

Information ranges from a tutorial on [how to make a better visual support](#) to [specific strategies of the month](#) such as [engaging the learner](#) and [building longer sentences](#).

RogerHub

Executive Functioning Quick Tool for Older Students

We're guessing that you are already using the amazing [Quizlet](#) for adaptive learning through pre-made flashcards, but have you discovered [RogerHub](#)?

This site has a simple tool designed for one purpose: to answer the question "If I have X points now, and the final is worth Y points and is Z percent of the grade, what do I need to get on the test to make my desired grade?" The answers often have editorial, sometimes humorous comments. For

example, one of our A students inputted her points. The calculation screen said "You need to get negative 50 points on this final to keep your A. Awesome job - why don't you draw a flower on the test?"



Retiring or Leaving the Profession?

Where can you sell your old materials to give you money for that trip to Africa? Here are some links:

- Swap Meet on www.speakingofspeech.com
- Speech Therapy Materials Auction on [Facebook](#)

Graduating/Switching Settings?

Where can you find inexpensive school-based materials? Start with the links above. Perhaps write a detailed post listing your location and that you are willing to pick up materials, "CF Starting Out in the Schools: Needs Everything!" I picked up a \$70 book for \$10 just this week!

Subscribe to newsletters for [Linguisystems](#), [Super Duper](#), [Speech Page](#) and [Speech Corner](#): samples and discounts come up regularly!

There are currently 5,762 free products offered in the speech therapy section of [TeachersPayTeachers](#). An account alerts you to frequent sales on other products. Note: TPT can be sorted by age, and extends through adults. If you are leaning toward rehab or private practice you still might want to take a look!

Don't discount thrift stores, Craigslist, Freecycle, and Amazon: this year our SLPs bought products from [Peaceable Kingdom](#), [Key Education](#), and [Playroom Entertainment](#) as well as sensory items and classic games!

Consider sponsoring a materials exchange with your work group (either the group of speech pathologists or the teacher group!) If you begin in September at a school, start your prep days by slapping a colorful sign down in the lounge: "GIVEAWAYS HERE" and see what appears!

Remember that many of the best materials are curriculum based: get copies of textbooks and workbooks from the teachers. Many have online resources through the textbook companies. [Quizlet](#) and [Khan Academy](#) have materials to support classroom learning of specific topics.



CF 303-READY FOR LAUNCH? Congratulations Graduates!

By now, most of you have graduated, and a good portion of you are anxiously awaiting the start of your school-based contract. If you are continuing to seek your ideal clinical fellowship, consider revisiting the [clinical fellowship section of our website](#) for tips on the differences between agencies and districts, questions to ask regarding supervision, and a quick tips sheet answering the most common questions.

If you are all set, Congratulations! Relax, rest, and.....fill in your training gaps. Where are they? Supervisors, how can you help them fill these gaps?

Some of the our supervisor's most common reference recommendations for CF/RPE candidates are:

*[School Programs in Speech Language Pathology by Jean Blosser](#) for eligibility/discharge criteria, guidelines for service provision and much more

*[School Aged Stuttering Therapy by Nina Reeves](#) for super practical methods and evaluation tips

*[Website and Products by Michelle Garcia Winner's Group](#) for functional evaluation and treatment of social skills issues

*[Pinterest Board of Lisa Varo](#) and other Pinterest SLPs for well organized practical information on a variety of topics.

*[ASHA'S Special Interest Group 16](#) for constant learning on school- based issues such as workload, data collection, management of less common cases, and lots more. Join the email daily digest for small bites of new information every day!

One last piece of advice: connection is EVERYTHING. If you connect with your students/parents, connect with your team members, and connect with your supervisor, the specific skills will come.

We know you are still learning. Show us you are listening, look for ways to show gratitude for our help, and the road will smooth out. If something feels "wrong," check with your supervisor. Stay calm - you will get there! There are thousands of other SLPs who have made it through this first challenge, and survived to have long and fantastic careers!



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 on [@PCSSinSoCal](#) for a morning kid joke. Here are three of our recent favorites.

What goes under your feet and over your head? A jump rope!

Why did the melon jump in the lake? It wanted to be a watermelon!

Why was the baseball game so hot? Because all the fans left!