

April 2017

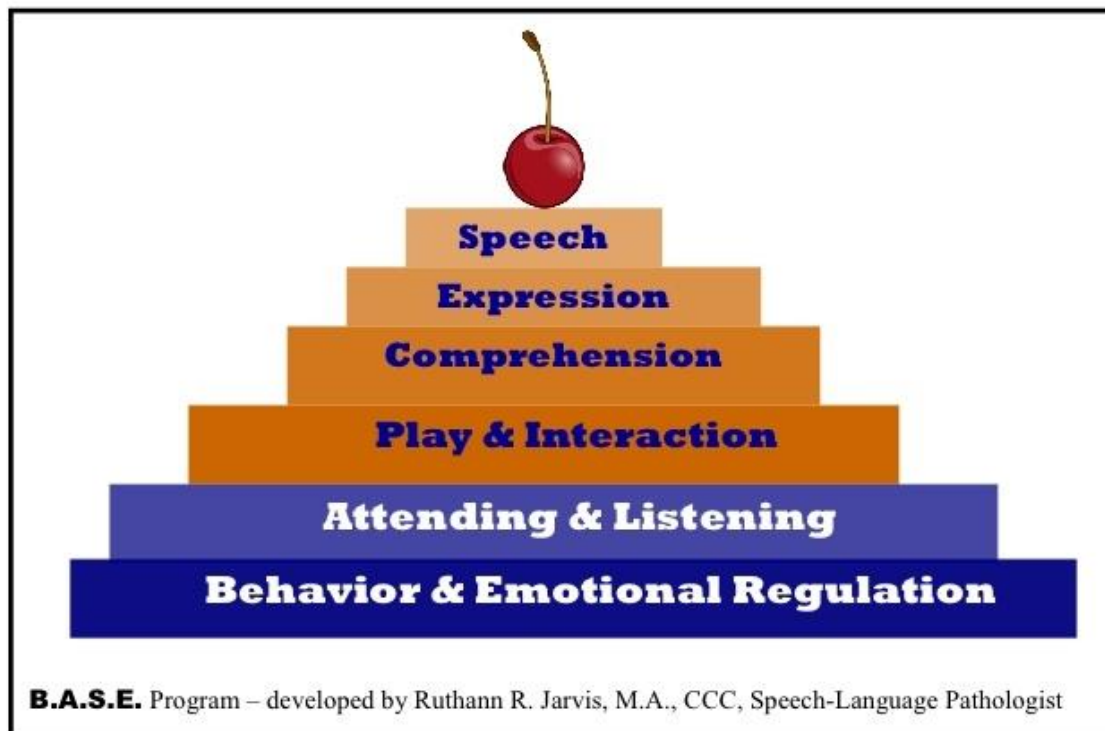
Featured Article: Baking the Communication Cake

Picture yourself in a contentious IEP, where the parents are fuming because their child is still not talking after two years of speech–language services. They want increased individual speech therapy, which you believe is not the best approach for this student.

Ruthann Jarvis, SLP, came up with a brilliant analogy to help parents and others understand how all the goals on the IEP and all the educational services (speech, academic, occupational therapy) work together to encourage effective communication and academic growth.

The visual image is that of a multi-tiered wedding cake. Often, the parent is only looking at the output, or "cherry" of verbal language, rather than realizing the complexity of underlying skills that lead to effective communication. Could this word picture help you explain the student's progress, or why additional pullout time at the expense of classroom experience might be counterproductive?

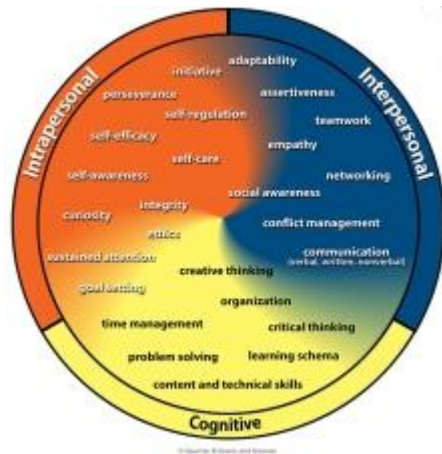
Note: this analogy was first published by PCSS in 2009, and is still referenced by our practice on a regular basis.



Featured Resources for High School Level Students

Do you serve middle or high school students? Here are some terrific new resources, with a focus on tying our work to the common core standards and strengthening critical social skills.

1. [Career College Competency Framework](#): An Evidence-Based Practice tool assessing core competencies such as adaptability and self-awareness. Each competency is linked to assessment tools and teaching guides. A true treasure trove!
2. [Conversation Builder Teen](#): Video based, multiple choice conversations build social skills for specific life situations.
3. [E-reading Worksheets](#): E-reading Worksheets provides teachers, parents, and motivated students with high-quality reading worksheets, activities, and resources aligned with Common Core State Standards. This website uses a skill-focused approach where each activity targets a specific skill set, but you can also browse the reading worksheets by grade level.
4. [Should I or Shouldn't I](#): Social Thinking Game with excellent questions for discussion on a variety of middle and high school life topics. Questions can be scaffolded up for increased difficulty, or reduced in difficulty by the SLP providing some fixed choices.



Featured Collaboration Website: ¡Colorín Colorado

[¡Colorín Colorado](#) has a stated mission of supporting ELL students and their families. Sample resources include this article on [how to help ELL students transitioning to "reading to learn" in fourth grade](#) and this article [suggesting small steps to improve learning in ELL students](#).

Although dense, we also loved [this chart](#) as a "brainstorm document" for how to improve specific academically based language skills. This site is generally directed toward classroom teachers, with ideas that enrich our ability to collaborate.



Featured Article: SLI Dismissal

Do you have students on your caseload whose parents are resisting dismissal? [This jewel of a blog article](#) supplies sample comments to encourage positive thinking and avoid conflict. Even a seasoned clinician will find some new language, and might be a lifesaver for a new SLPs. Remember when qualifying students to "front load" parents by mentioning that "eligibility for services is for no more than three years." This will help them to understand dismissal procedures down the line.



Featured Free CEU Courses: ASHA

Have you heard? ASHA is providing more free CEU courses for its members! All become available the first of each month, and will be free for the entire month. Here's the calendar for the next five months for your convenience:

April: Value-Added Assessment and Practical Use of the PACE Tool

May: Finding the Right Data to Improve Practice and Demonstrate Your Value

June: Utilizing Support Personnel to Improve Your Practice

July: Professional Diversity: How Your Unique Perspective Can Improve Clinical Decision-Making

August: Enhancing Pretend Play Skills in Preschoolers With Autism Spectrum Disorder

Registration is open for the new courses, and they can be found on the ASHA Store. There are also plenty of online CEUs for under \$25 offered through ASHA.



Featured "Centering" App: Settle Your Glitter

Simple, but effective! [Settle Your Glitter](#) allows a student to pick from five emotions and rate the emotion's severity. A snow globe is displayed, and the student is invited to shake the iPad. If the student remains relatively still, the glitter settles to the bottom. If the student continues to be physically active, the glitter "freezes" in mid-air.

If you have students who would benefit from "a good stretch" with real children and animation the [Adventures of Super Stretch](#) app is free, quick, and fun!



Fabulous Featured Opportunity: FREE Long Term Loans of Ipad/Tablets with AAC Apps

Do you have a student who could benefit from a FREE long term loan of a tablet/iPad with communication apps, on a device with a robust case and external speakers? A long term loan basically means the student owns the device. Wow!

All the information can be found on the [Voice Options site](#). There are four steps to the process:

1. Find a demonstration center (there is one in San Diego, Santa Ana)
2. Participate in a demonstration of 5 AAC apps
3. Complete a short term loan (2 weeks to a month)
4. Apply for a long term loan

This is an 18-month PILOT program, so we recommend checking it out while this amazing opportunity is available.

Furthermore, the same TTY phone taxes that are providing these devices to Californians free of charge, will also kick in funding/pay for a person to have a personally owned AAC device if Medical were to deny a person funding after the submission of an AAC report.

Another method of borrowing a device for a month at a time is to [create an account](#) at Ability Tools.



Jokes for Kids

Enjoy these recently Tweeted jokes! We know your favorite part of our newsletter. Did you know you can follow [PCSS on Twitter](#) for a weekly dose of jokes?

What direction does a sneeze fly?

At-choo!

What cup can you never drink out of?

A hic-cup!

How does Old MacDonald send an email?

By e-i-e-i-o-mail!
