



Holman Therapy Fall Newsletter



October, 2012

Speech, Language, and Literacy Therapy www.holmantherapy.com



FALL HARVEST FIELD TRIP

DATE: TBA

LOCATION: Historic Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, IL 60026

We will be taking a speech field trip to Wager Farm. This trip will be geared towards children in preschool through first grade, and is open to all current and past clients, siblings, and friends.

Look, listen, and discover what makes up Wagner Farm. Meet and interact with our animals and take part in various hands-on activities such as grinding corn to feed our chickens and pumping water for the cows. End your visit with a chance to make and sample some homemade butter.

Program length: 90 minutes

Fee: In district students \$5.25

Fee: Out of district students \$5.50

For more information, please email Kathleen at kathleen@holmantherapy.com



Photos from our Summer Field Trip to Lincoln Park Zoo:





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No-Mess Pumpkin Carving Activity (from speechtherapyideas.com)

Julie Valentin, M.A., CCC-SLP



Becky Wanca posted the following craft on speechtherapyideas.com. While language-rich, a less daunting and messy way to teach our kids the art of pumpkin carving:

What You Need:

- craft pumpkin
- yellow yarn*
- dried pumpkin seeds (pre-packaged or ones you've dried)
- pencil
- sharp knife
- bowl
- large spoon
- plastic knife
- small battery-operated light (optional)

What To Do Ahead of Time:

1. Using a sharp knife, cut a circle around the top of the pumpkin.
2. Draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the pumpkin with a pencil.



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3. Cut out the shapes to make a face. (Keep these parts.)
4. Cut the yellow yarn into 4 to 6 inch pieces.
5. Place the yarn and some seeds inside the pumpkin.
6. Replace the pumpkin top and pieces of the face.



*Note: For those not opposed to sliminess, you can use cooked spaghetti with olive oil as your pulp, but be sure to line the inside of your pumpkin with plastic wrap and have soap and water ready.

Activities:

- Have the students “carve” the pumpkin using a plastic knife. Remember to have them scoop out the pulp and seeds before carving the face.
- Discuss the pumpkin’s parts (stem, shell, pulp, seeds) and check to see if the students can identify and/or name them.
- Have the students estimate the circumference of the pumpkin by cutting off a piece of yarn they think will fit around it. Let each student try their yarn and see who is the closest. Discuss math-related vocabulary such as height, weight, circumference, diameter, and volume.
- Use the finished pumpkin as a container for students to pull out game cards or articulation stimuli.

You can check out more on Becky’s creative idea at

<http://www.speechtherapyideas.com/2012/10/08/carving-a-pumpkin-without-the-mess/>. Thanks, Julie, for the fun find!



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The iPad and its Role in Therapy

Kathleen Holman Cascino

More and more of our families are asking us about ways to use the iPad to promote speech development. It's true, the iPad has some great apps. They range from free or inexpensive (such as a *ArtikPix*, a great app for practicing speech articulation with engaging memory games and voice recorder) to much more expensive apps (We think of Proloquo2Go, the \$189.99 application, considered a more affordable alternative to a high-tech communication device such as Mayer-Johnson's DynaVox). We do use these in therapy and have some recommendations for more fun and helpful apps (see below). We first offer a Buyer Beware:

Apps may be a great supplement to therapy with many children, but they are not necessarily ideal for all goals. We want to remember that improving a child's face-to-face communication is our ultimate goal, and sometimes putting an iPad under a child's nose is counterproductive to that. Some children, for example, have become so mesmerized by the iPad that they focus on the technology itself rather than the speech target. Keeping this in mind when searching for apps may help parents and therapists find applications that promote human interaction throughout the application activity. Many of the apps out there are both enriching and also great for keeping children happy and engaged while a parent has to put away the groceries. This is great, and we are not knocking it— parents benefit from these supports that keep their children occupied while also offering enriching material. We just suggest that if you are looking for an app to help with the /l/ sound or improve accuracy with wh-questions, try to find one that encourages some back-and-forth interaction— one that allows for adult-interjection. Apps that have a goal and encourage adults to help the child work towards the goal can be very rewarding. Bottom line: Approach apps as tools to help us play a hands-on role in our work towards a child's goals. When looking for apps, consider their potential for this parent-child interaction as much as you consider how entertaining they may be. We've included a short list of some of our favorites below:

- *Speech with Milo-Verbs*, \$2.99. Fun, musical cartoon acts out a variety of action words.
- *Vast Autism 1- Core*, \$4.99. by Speak in Motion. Many of our kids working on motor-planning have really benefitted from imitating the separated playlists of syllables, multisyllabic words, and phrases. In our experience, our kids who have autism are actually less engaged with this app. We do not recommend the VAST Songs by Speak in Motion. Both we and our kids find the singers goofy.
- *Practicing Pragmatics Fun Deck*, \$1.99. Many of us speech therapists have been using these Super Duper cards for years with our kids. The iPad app now makes these cards, if not much more engaging than the cards, at least more accessible for parents.
- *"WH" Questions at Home Fun Deck*, \$1.99. Similar to the *Practicing Pragmatics* above. Another Super Duper staple.
- *QuestionIt*, by Language Learning Apps, \$24.99 – The Lite Version is free but has a purposefully irritating voice to encourage you to buy the full app. If you do buy the newest version, the app is



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great for metalinguistic skills, sorting, answering questions, vocabulary development, and sentence structure building in older children.

- *PCS Bingo Board*, free [comes with limited categories included. Additional categories are \$0.99 each]. Our kids love this app! Mayer Johnson provides an interactive bingo board with Picture Communication Symbols (PCS™) to practice vocabulary. A variety of categories are offered including: actions, Halloween, animals, birthday, body [parts], bugs, Christmas, clothing and accessories, and dozens more. We really like this one.
- *PCS Memory*, free. Another Mayer-Johnson app, similar to Bingo above. Utilizes the same Picture Communication Symbols (PCS™) and categories to target vocabulary.
- *itouchilearnWords*, \$1.99. *The Head Shoulders Knees and Toes* song on this app is an appropriate example of those “babysitting” apps discussed above that do not promote adult-child interaction. We try to use this option only as a reward. However the vocabulary games on this app are very engaging, and when a child accurately identifies a word, the app gives the child a loud round of applause as well as a large gold star.

For more on this topic, please see Kathleen’s recent blog on ipad use in language and literacy instruction at: <http://literacychicago.wordpress.com/2012/07/15/ipad-use-in-language-and-literacy-instruction/>

In response to many of our families’ comments that there is inadequate literacy support for their children with special needs, this year Holman Therapy launched a literacy program. Kathleen and Blair combine their experiences with teaching literacy (both at a private reading clinic and in the schools) with their work with children with special needs to provide a creative and individualized approach to literacy instruction. Check us out online at :

www.holmantherapy.com/chicago_reading_services.html

You can also follow us on twitter. Follow @ChicagoReading. In response to many of our families’ frustration about lack of resources, we also created a blog about literacy resources in Chicago. The main focus of this blog is resources for children with special needs, though it is about literacy resources in general. You can check out the blog at <http://literacychicago.wordpress.com/>.





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A LENSE INTO OUR THERAPISTS' PAST FEW MONTHS:



Julie's baby, Cyrus Joseph
8/26/12 8lbs, 6 oz



Blair moved to Chicago with her husband, Brian, and joined us at Holman Therapy!



Kathleen and Chris' wedding, 9/15/12, "Oh Happy Day!"

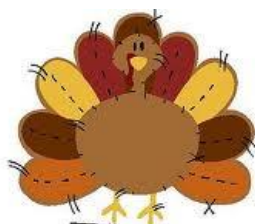


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Happy Thanksgiving

Blair Wolf, M.A. CCC-SLP

Fall is officially here, which means Thanksgiving is just around the corner! The holidays are a wonderful time for parents to engage their children in learning opportunities through art projects and other activities. Parents of toddlers may wonder what they can do with their little ones to help them celebrate the Thanksgiving season and target speech and language skills. Here are some fun activities:

Hand Craft Turkey Stick Puppet

Take brown construction paper and have your child put their hand on the paper (fingers spread). Trace your child's hand and then cut out the hand. Help your child draw a face on the thumb and use bright markers to color the other fingers or glue beads and feathers on them. Glue the paper turkey on a large craft stick to make a stick puppet. Let your child use their turkey when singing turkey songs or reading Thanksgiving stories.

Sing Thanksgiving Songs

Mr. Turkey

Mr. Turkey, Mr. Turkey,
Run away, run away.
If you don't be careful,
You will be a mouthful
Thanksgiving Day.
Thanksgiving Day.
(sung to *Are You Sleeping?*)

Thank You

Thank you, thank you very much,
For everything I can touch.
Thanks for all the food I eat.
For the socks that warm my feet.
Thank you, thank you very much,
For my family I love so much.
(sung to *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*)

Read Thanksgiving Books

Perfect books for introducing Thanksgiving to your little ones...

1. [Five Silly Turkeys](#) By Salina Toon
2. [The Turkey Ball](#) By David Steinberg
3. [Ten Fat Turkeys](#) By Tony Johnston



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4. Spot's Thanksgiving By Eric Hill
5. One Little, Two Little, Three Little Pilgrims By B.G. Hennessy
6. What is Thanksgiving? By Harriet Ziefert
7. Thanksgiving is For Giving Thanks By Margaret Sutherland
8. The Extra-Thankful Thanksgiving By Kim Watson



Top of the charts: Autumn Hits

- 1) *That's How a Pumpkin Grows* by Brian Vogan
- 2) *Which Witch is Which?* by Goofy (Disney's Halloween Songs and Sounds)
- 3) *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Thanksgiving Anthem) by Lydia Maria Child
- 4) *Fall into Fall* by Rachel Rambach
- 5) *Autumn Song* by Van Morrison



Thank you for your continued support and patronage, from our therapists:



Kathleen Holman Cascino, M.A., CCC-SLP Blair Matthew Wolf, M.A., CCC-SLP Julie Valentin, M.A., CCC-SLP