February 3, 2016

Dear Physicians/Educators,

We are pleased to announce that Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC’s Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology will again be offering our Chatterbox Express summer outpatient social skills groups in the Pine Center and South neighborhood locations.

We will be providing group treatment to focus on the development and expansion of various social skills via a variety of topics and activities that will promote and facilitate peer interactions. Goals such as meeting new friends, promoting topic maintenance and turn-taking in discourse and using language to solve problems with same-age peers will be addressed. These sessions will be held 2 times per week for 5 weeks beginning in July.

We ask that you share this information with patients/students who may benefit from this kind of therapeutic experience. Children will need to be evaluated by a Speech and Language Pathologist at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC to determine if they are eligible for enrollment in the program. Parents can call our Central Scheduling department at 412-692-5580 to schedule an evaluation from March-May, 2016.

We look forward to another summer of providing excellence in treatment for children requiring assistance in developing and improving social skills.

Thank you in advance for sharing this information with the parents of children you serve.

Sincerely,

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Chatterbox Express is a curriculum-based program to help school-age children build communication skills effectively when interacting with others. The program is offered by the Center for Independence. Speech-language pathologists will work with participants in the program.

Who should participate?
School-aged children who need assistance in building social communication skills in order to interact and communicate more effectively with others.

What will they learn?
Participants will be grouped by age and skill level. They will be instructed by certified speech-language pathologists. The program will help children:

- Develop turn-taking skills
- Answer questions appropriately
- Use greetings
- Follow rules and directions
- Use teamwork
- Develop problem-solving skills
- Understand parts of a conversation
- Maintain a topic in a conversation
- Understand feelings in themselves and others
- Express emotions effectively

Where is Chatterbox held?
The program is offered in two locations:

- Center for Independence, Children's Pine Center, Suite 202, 11279 Perry Highway, Wexford, PA 15090
- Children's South, 205 Millers Run Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017

When are the sessions?
Sessions will be held two times per week for five weeks. Exact dates and times will be determined based on enrollment.

How do I get more information?
Contact the Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology at 412-692-5580. An evaluation will be completed by a speech-language pathologist prior to the start of the program to determine whether your child is a good candidate for the course.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUPS

Confident Kids (ST/OT/PT/BH consult) This multidisciplinary group is designed to work on sensory organization, sitting in place, standing in line, communication with others and the teachers, direction following and turn taking. Target Age: School-Age

Focus with Friends (ST/BH) This group provides the necessary skills to help with attention and focus while interacting with their peers allowing them to foster important age appropriate social skills. Target Age: School-Age

Pathway to Independence (ST/OT/PT/BH consult) This small group is designed for children and adolescents who have physical disabilities and are interested in gaining independence in self-help skills. Target Age: School-Age

Ready, Set, School (ST/OT/PT/BH consult) This group is designed for children who need help developing gross motor, fine motor and speech-language skills. Target Ages: Preschool to Early Elementary

Theradance (ST/PT) This group is designed for children who enjoy dancing but whose abilities limit their participation in community-based dance classes. Children participating should be able to walk and move throughout their environment safely and independently and should require minimal prompting to maintain attention. Target Ages: 5 years to Teenagers (children will be grouped by age)

Yoga (PT/OT) is program that assists in helping children to learn self-calming strategies and who need core strength and flexibility training.

SINGLE DISCIPLINE GROUPS

Chatterbox (ST) This group is designed to help children interact and communicate more effectively by building social communication skills. Target Ages: School-Age

Handwriting without Tears (OT) This group helps children who need assistance with their handwriting skills. Target Ages: 3 to 11 years

Language Blossoms (ST) This group is for children that have expressive language delays, without significant receptive language concerns. Target Ages: Late 2 to Early 4 years

The Language of Stories (ST) - This group is designed to target narrative comprehension and production by direct instruction of story grammar elements. Target Ages: 7-10 years

More Than Words (ST) – This group provides parent treating with parent and child videos for young children with mixed receptive/expressive language delays and suspected pragmatic delays. Target Ages: 2 ½ to 5 years

Music to My Ears (ST) – This group is for young children who are hearing impaired. Toddler Group - Target Ages: 8 months to 2 years Preschool Group - Target Ages: 2 to 5 years

Seedling Program (Only through Individual Speech evaluations) – This group provides intense parent training for families with children with significant expressive language delay, without receptive language impairment. Target Ages: 16 to 28 months

Write Power! (ST) This group is designed for children who have difficulties with written expression and need to build confidence in their writing skills. Target Ages: 8 to 13 years