

CARE for Children News

www.careforchildren.info



PROMOTING COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE IN YOUNG CHILDREN

Speech and Language Early Intervention services for children birth to three started being offered by CARE for Children in 2013. With its addition, the program further enhanced existing physical therapy and occupational therapy services the agency provides for children with delays and disabilities.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) deliver these services for CARE. SLPs hold at least a master's degree and state certification/licensure in the field, and a certificate of clinical competency from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

According to CARE Speech-Language Pathologist Kylie Battin, M.S., CCC-SLP, "speech services for children birth to three are vitally important because families are desperate for their children to communicate their wants and needs. Oftentimes children who are unable to communicate show signs of frustration. My job is to provide families with strategies and ideas on how to provide a more language rich environment and teach families how to set up opportunities for communication within their daily routines."

Early Intervention sessions are focused on addressing concerns through play therapy and are held in the child's home, daycare or other natural setting.

"Speech and language services provide the foundation for communication and language skills needed throughout life," added Gina Kane, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE Speech-Language Pathologist. "Services for this age group typically focus on increasing functional communication, like the use of gestures/signs and simple words to communicate."

In general, SLPs assess speech, language, cognitive-communication, and oral/feeding/swallowing skills to identify types of communication problems (articulation, fluency, voice, receptive and expressive language disorders, etc.) and the best way to treat them.

In addition to Early Intervention services, this year CARE's SLPs have been assisting some of the school districts with caseload coverage and overflow. The SLPs noted that school services differ from services for children birth to three both in goals and in the setting for treatment.

"In the schools, speech-language treatment focuses on how language or articulation impairments affect children's participation in the academic environment," said Kane. "As a therapist in the school, we provide treatment in a more structured setting. Each child has a specific goal or goals set related to articulation, expressive, receptive, or pragmatic language. We also work with the students and teachers to find strategies to increase carryover into the classroom."

Both Battin and Kane emphasized the team approach to treatment. In Early Intervention the SLPs work closely with families and other service providers; and at school the team includes the child, therapist, teachers, other service providers and school staff with input from the parents at meetings and through phone calls.

Both SLPs agree that working with and watching the children they treat gain skills and successfully reach goals is one of the most rewarding aspects of their jobs.



Top: Gina Kane, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE Speech-Language Pathologist, provides a developmental screening at Kindergarten registration for the Port Allegany School District. Bottom: Kylie Battin, M.S., CCC-SLP, CARE Speech-Language Pathologist routinely screens children in CARE's preschool and playgroup programs.

HAVING A BALL DURING WINTER RECREATION



Left to right: Natalie, age 8, a student at the Port Allegany School District, was ready to hit the slopes at CARE's Adaptive Ski Outing at Holiday Valley Ski Resort in February. Each child at the clinic was paired with one or more volunteer instructors and given expert instruction as part of the Holiday Valley Lounsbury Adaptive Ski Program, which is a chapter of Disabled Sports/USA. Center: Lucas, age 6, enjoyed the 18th annual basketball mini camp held in March at the Bradford YMCA. Campers rotated through different skill stations which focused on activities including passing, dribbling, shooting, layups, ball handling, and defense. Right: Benjamin, age 8, worked on his passing skills with the help of coach Andrew Eckstrom at Trailblazers Field Hockey practice.

CARE CELEBRATES EARLY LEARNERS

With a Visit from the Erie Zoo and 'Week of the Young Child' Festivities



Preschoolers Paislee, age 4, and Blakely, age 4, show off their socks on "silly sock day" during the 'Week of the Young Child'.

activities, enjoyed a performance by musical guest Shane Oschman, and explored food and cooking by helping to make special snacks like trail mix and pizza.

The 'Week of the Young Child,' an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

The Erie Traveling Zoo visited Rainbow Corner Preschool in February and presented, *Smitten for Mittens*, which revolved around the book [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett. Preschoolers listened to the story, learned facts about each animal, and visited with a hamster, rabbit, collared dove, and skunk, some of the animals who were featured in the story.

The zoo visit is incorporated into the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) curriculum at Rainbow Corner with zoo-themed activities, stories, and games.

Rainbow Corner Preschool also celebrated its early learners during the 'Week of the Young Child' April 8th-12th. Along with fun themed days throughout the week, special lessons revolved around books by author Eric Carle. The students participated in art-themed



Olivia, age 4, pets Thumper the Rabbit while Cassandra, age 4, waits in anticipation during the Erie Traveling Zoo's visit to preschool in February.

CARE for Children Tribute Gifts

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January 1st, 2019 through March 31st, 2019

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January 1st, 2019 through March 31st, 2019

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January 1st, 2019 through March 31st, 2019

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The generosity of our caring community makes a lasting impact on services for local children...



Give a gift in memory of someone special or honor a loved one's birthday, graduation, wedding, anniversary, or other special event throughout the year to support services for children of all abilities.

The recipient will receive a special printed card acknowledging the gift.

814-362-4621

www.careforchildren.info

Join CARE for Children and the circle of families and community members who support services for children of all abilities. We are all stronger together!



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CARE for Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children of all abilities.

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The 26th Annual

SAVE-the-DATE

CARE 'fore' Children Golf Tournament
Sunday, August 4th, 2019
Pine Acres Country Club
8:30 AM Shotgun Start

*Benefits services for
children of all abilities*