

1 **Talking Clearly, Reading Well**

AND HOW SPEECH THERAPY WORKS IN INDIANA

2 **Why You are here**3 **What You will Learn**

- Common Milestones for Speech and Language
- Ways to measure "risk" involved with DIY vs getting help, red flags!
- My favorite resources (that I use too!)
- IEPs vs ISPs (and what working with the school can be like)
- Speech therapy and reading.
- Options available in Indiana to support you at a wide range of levels.

4 **Hi! I'm Amanda ☺**

- Homeschool graduate from Indiana
- Was a speech language pathologist in a public school across 7 districts
- Runs a private practice
- Homeschooling has always been the only option for our children.

5 **Disclaimers/Conflicts of Interest**

- I run an online speech therapy business
 - But I help people find their fit
- I work in the public schools and have worked in medical & early intervention as an SLP
 - But I am passionate about homeschool freedom, medical freedom, natural medicine options, parent rights, and transparency with families on what their options are.
- I AM NOT A LAWYER. The information provided in this workshop will be excerpts take directly from the code and anecdotes and observation from one public school speech language pathologist. It should not be taken as legal interpretation or advice.
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6 **Getting to know You**

Getting to know all about you

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- Who knows what speech therapy is for?
- Has anyone worked with an SLP?
- Has anyone tried doing some speech therapy on your own?
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8 **Top 10 Questions**

In no particular order.

9 **(1) Does my child need Help?**

Such a good question!

10 **Places I use for Milestones**

- FirstWordsProject.com (for the itty bitties 0-2yrs)
- www.theinformedslp.com/review/no-sl-ps-were-in-the-room-where-it-happened

- www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/speech-and-language
- www.speech-language-therapy.com (Caroline Bowen)
- www.asha.org

11 **(2) When should my child say the ___ Sound?**

Such a good question!

12

13 **(3) When is a child language delayed?**

14

15 **Language Milestones**

1 RECEPTIVE

- 2
- 12 months- Turns to Name & follows familiar routines
 - 18 months- follows 1 step commands, points to 6 body parts
 - 2-3 Years- follows 2 step commands and understands new words easily

3 EXPRESSIVE

- 4
- 12 months- Babbles intentionally, gestures
 - 18 months- 15 words (But ELVS data suggests this is conservative)
 - 2-3 Years- Puts 3 words together, asks "why" questions

16 **Language Milestones**

1 RECEPTIVE

- 2
- 3-4 years- understands words for family, and some shapes and colors. Responds from other room.
 - 4-5 years- Understands order words "next!," time, and longer instructions. Understands most of everything that is said at home or coop.

3 EXPRESSIVE

- 4
- 3-4 years- Answers WH questions, says rhyming words. Uses pronouns, plurals, and 4 word or more phrases.
 - 4-5 years- Tells stories! They may have a lot of info piled in, but start to have a beginning, "middle," and end.

17 **(4) Won't my child grow out of it?**

If you are here.... you are probably wondering.

18 **Depends!**

- Are they "typical?" YES!
- Are they delayed? Maybe...
- Are they disordered? Not usually.
- And a brief word on functioning within normal limits vs at potential.

19 **(5) How will Speech Therapy help that?**

Let me count the ways...

20 **The SLP "Scope"**

- Speech Sounds (inside and outside)
- Dyslexia and reading
- Language (Late Talkers to Learning Literature)

- Stuttering
- Voice (resonance and phonation)
- Orofacial Myofunctional Disorders
- Feeding & Swallowing
- Cognition (memory, attention, executive functioning, etc)
- Social Language (no.... not socialization)

21 (6) Can I DIY?

How tricky is this, really...

22 It depends!

1 SIGNS TO BRING A BUDDY

- 2 • Area of Scope: Feeding, swallowing, airway, voice, OMD
 - Delay is obvious, significant, or looks "atypical" like a disorder
 - Practice makes permanent
 - Your child is FRUSTRATED or shutting down.

3 SIGNS TO TRY DIY

- 4 • Area of Scope: Speech Sounds (TH)
 - Comparison to GOOD milestones is right at or just above. You see skills emerging
 - 16x16 (firstwordsproject.com)

23 (7) Where can I get help?

SO MANY OPTIONS!!!

24 By Age

- 0-3yrs First Steps
- 3-21 Public School
- Every Age?
 - Private Clinics
 - Hospital Clinics
 - Private SLPs

25 You can look into...

- Free or Low Cost Screenings
- Evaluations (check for pricing if you choose "private")
- There are "in between" options for getting help.
 - Sessions less often
 - Training just for mom
 - Hybrid services
 - Parent implemented speech therapy

26 (8) Where can I DIY?

SO MANY handy things!!!

27 Where to DIY

- TPT
- Home Speech Home
- Complexity Method Website (SLPath.org)

- Laura Mize- Teach Me To Talk
- My site: learn.illuminatecommunicate.com
- Websites and resources built for SLPs by SLPs
 - Caroline Bowen- <https://www.speech-language-therapy.com/>

28 (9) Is the public school required to...

29 Things that make this Messy

- Article 7 provides the law from which state laws are based, but there are variations in state laws and interpretation.
- In some states, the range of interpretation leads to difference between districts and even policies from one year to the next
 - Some states offer no support whatsoever as an across the board ruling.
 - In Indiana, much is left to districts to determine. (Check out South Bend SPED)
- There can be differences in services based on: state, district, age group, and whether a child was previously enrolled in public school or not.

30 It Depends on...

- Their age (0-5 yr olds have more options)
- Whether or not there is academic impact.
 - access and benefit from a general education curriculum
 - Can be tricky for homeschoolers to prove
- If they were previously enrolled with an IEP
 - Because it makes academic impact easier to assess
- If the public school placed a child into a private school
 - HARSHA, DAMAR, etc
 - They don't place to homeschool.

31 Child Find

(Am I entitled to an Evaluation?)

- Public Schools are required to locate, identify, evaluate children with disabilities.
 - "schools make all kinds of efforts to identify the children so they can comply with the law, including requesting anyone who suspects a child of having a learning disability to report that child to authorities—regardless of whether the parents are already providing services that their child needs through homeschooling."
- The Public School has to offer, and it is in their best interests to evaluate the child of any parent who asks, but you don't have to give them your information.

32 School Services Depend On

- Presence of a disability. This is measured differently per state, district, provider.
 - Often based on percentile.
 - Some districts are stricter.
- Presence of academic impact:
 - Be prepared to provide academic information such as grades, grade level, reading level, samples of work, etc.
- Whether you accept their offer of FAPE, and what they offer for ISP services.
 - The law requires the offer of services through FAPE.
 - The law requires access to "comparable services."

- ISP: "Equitable" does not necessarily mean equal.

33 **Using SPED services**

1 PROS

- 2 • Possible ST, OT, PT services with no out-of-pocket costs
- School is usually local to you or may come to a larger coop setup.

3 CONS

- 4 • Public School involvement.
- Services(and progress) may be limited.
- Decreased involvement for you.
- School Staff may have a different focus in their scope than you need.
- Indiana Caseloads

34 **(10) What about reading?**

The question I WISH I was asked!

35 **But isn't dyslexia a vision thing? Well...**

- SLPs work with phonological dyslexia. We refer if we suspect vision concerns.
- phonological difficulties, memory difficulties, and RAN difficulties are the most common reasons for dyslexia.
- We work on RAN, we work on how the brain perceives and processes sound and language information, we work on memory, we work on attention!
- And... we work with comprehension too as part of both oral and written language.
- We evaluate and diagnose for dyslexia and our part on a team is crucial for differential diagnosis. (School SLP experience)

36 **(BONUS) Where do I find you?**

37 **Questions & How to Find Me**

- My website
- amanda@illuminatecommunicate.com
- In the exhibit hall!

38 **Thank You!**

For caring about your child!