

SUMMER 2016

COMMUNICATE WITH CARE

Molly Stepaniak, M.A., CCC-SLP

Communicate with Care, SPG's new family and caregiver support group, met for the first time on June 29 from 6:30-8:00 pm downstairs in the Walnut Creek Clinic. About a dozen family members of children with various communication delays or disorders attended this free meeting organized and led by Director of Clinics Jill Walson, MS, CCC-SLP and Speech-Language Pathologist, Molly Stepaniak, MA, CCC-SLP. After introductions, everyone was invited to participate in an open discussion to gather information about preferred topics for future meetings. Many participants commented that they were hoping to meet other parents who can relate to their experiences raising children with communication needs. They also expressed interests in sharing resources and in learning more about the roles of professionals who may work with their children. The second meeting in the end of July featured Sian DeLuca, OTR/L and Patricia Medina, OTR/L, Occupational Therapists and owners of SensationAll Kids Gym, as invited speakers. Communicate with Care participants learned about sensory processing through an interactive presentation and had the opportunity to ask questions about related topics.



SPG looks forward to helping families connect with each other and with available community resources through this new avenue. Due to high family interest, future meetings of Communicate with Care

HAVE YOU HEARD?

SPG is now on Facebook. Join us by clicking on the following link... [SPG via FaceBook](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20speech%20pathology%20group)
<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20speech%20pathology%20group>

Our next Communicate with Care support group is scheduled for September 28, 2016

are tentatively scheduled to occur every other month with meetings in September and November this fall. The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 28 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Interested parties may contact Molly at molly.stepaniak@speechpath.com to sign up.

FUN SUMMER DAYS

Pamela Bloch, M.S., CCC-SLP

Fun in the sun! Clients, families, and therapists alike have all had a wonderful time during both of our week-long "Fun Summer Days" held outdoors at our Walnut Creek Clinic. For one week in June and again in July, we shook off our usual therapy routines, put on our sunglasses, and took our clients--along with parents and siblings--to our outside courtyard for speech therapy. The novelty of the new setting, the shared excitement while interacting with other clients and families, and all the fun activity stations made for some of our most positive and productive therapy





sessions. From a lemonade stand to a bubble machine, from a water table to hopscotch, our clients practiced vocabulary, sentence production, turn-taking, following directions, and speech sounds with great enthusiasm. We are looking forward to our next week of "Fun Summer Days" in August. In the meantime, see what happens when you "work on speech" during fun outside time with your child. We bet that if you share some stimulating outdoor play together, you will get some terrific motivation, and lots of imitation, initiation, and interaction! Your kiddo may not even realize you're doing "therapy" with them. Practice turn-taking, requesting, problem-solving, answering questions, following directions, and more as you have fun during these outdoor activities together:

- * Sidewalk chalk drawing
- * Bubbles
- * Lemonade Stand
- * Picnic on a blanket in the garden
- * Tub of water with floating objects
- * Tent or obstacle course in backyard
- * Planting flowers
- * Turning on and off the sprinkler
- * Taking a walk and collecting nature items

Happy Summer!

CAMP SUPER COMMUNICATORS

Jill Walson, M.S., CCC-SLP



We are having a blast at SPG's Camp Super Communicators. This camp is held in July at Valle Verde Children's Center (VVCC) in Walnut Creek, CA. Children ages 6-12 with goals to improve their communication skills are given opportunities to be

mainstreamed into a fun and well established camp environment. Jessie Johnson, MS CCC-SLP, a licensed speech-language pathologist, is leading our campers this year and it has truly been an enjoyable experience to watch our campers engage in so many natural and positive social interactions.

Children participate in all of the memorable summer camp activities such as games, water balloons and arts/crafts. Our campers are given fun choices to participate in mainstreamed activities that



motivate them as well as engaging in small group activities that can earn them social badges such as being a flexible thinker, using manners, taking turns, gracefully losing, and using

your eyes to communicate a message. Providing this type of camp experience has been rewarding for all of those involved and we would like to thank Valle Verde Children's Center for welcoming SPG campers to ensure a successful summer camp experience.

SPG looks forward to continuing this partnership with VVCC so we can continue to provide a memorable and

positive camp experience for children in our community. If you are interested in learning more about Camp Super Communicators for the summer of 2017, please

contact jill Walson, MS, CCC-SLP and Director of Clinics at jill@speechpath.com.

