



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

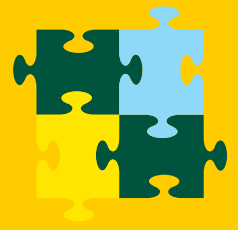
PROMPT TREATMENT

The Speech and Language Pathology department is trained in world-renowned PROMPT program developed by Deborah Hayden.

PROMPT, (Prompts for Restructuring Oral Muscular Phonetic Targets), is a holistic, dynamic, multi-sensory therapeutic program developed for the assessment and treatment of speech production disorders.

PROMPT has often been recognized for its use of tactile-kinesthetic articulatory prompts (cues), on the jaw, face and under the chin that help to develop or restructure speech production output. Depending on the nature of the delay or disorder this perspective may derive from normal child acquisition models of development or from models that stress maximizing the child's potential in spite of disordered or damaged systems. What is unique about PROMPT is that it is a human philosophy that looks to create unique programs for each person based on the combination of many factors to support speech production change.

In brief, PROMPT is concerned with all areas of the child's development and how he/she uses all domains (Physical, Mental and Social) to interact verbally with significant others. In Assessment tone, breath support, mandibular, labial-facial and lingual control, how these systems have developed and contribute to speech production is assessed fully.



PROMPT TREATMENT

After evaluating how the child functions overall, e.g. how they have developed and are currently using communication strategies and the speech-motor system; treatment suggestions are developed. In treatment planning all of the above information is then taken into account and structured to enable the child to make the most of their physical, cognitive, social and speech sub-system developmental levels. Usually, the creation of a lexicon, (vocabulary), that will enable the child to functionally practice and use the new or rebalanced motor actions is created. This lexicon is developed with the family and school team members.

There are many accounts from parents and speech therapists of children making great progress in their speech after receiving PROMPT Therapy. Often these children had been participating in traditional speech therapy programs with little or no progress. Some parents have found PROMPT after being told their child would never use their voice to communicate.

The Core elements that are considered essential in PROMPT treatment are:

- Determining a Communication Focus e.g. an aspect of development in which to embed and focus communication intervention, for example, self-help or activities of daily living, interactive communication routines, play skills or pre-linguistic, pre-academic or academic learning.
- Developing Goals and embedding objectives that embody the Communication Focus and work towards motor/language, cognitive and social function.
- Determining how the chosen goals then affect activities and toys/materials choices and how these in turn affect the child's ability to process and produce motor actions.
- Insuring that a high degree of motor/sound practice, for accuracy of productions and generalization of these into novel syllables and words, (within naturalistic activities) are used within each session.
- The inclusion of reciprocal interaction and choice making in almost every turn.
- Presentation of the same activities over time to provide a structure in which increased motor-language complexity and cognitive learning of events and sequences can be learned.
- Deciding on the purpose of prompting and what types of prompts should be used to support and develop speech-motor control for speech and language.