



SPALS SPEAKS

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Speaker Highlight for 2012 Conference

Expanding Expression: A multi-Sensory approach for oral and written language by Sara L. Smith, MS CCC-SLP

The presenter is an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist and founder of the Expanding Expression Tool™ (EET). She began her career in the Bay City Public Schools (Michigan) where she focused on developing and teaching language strategies to facilitate academic success. Her interest and continued study of language processing and multi-sensory approaches to learning have led to her development of the Expanding Expression Program for improved oral and written language. As a national speaker, Sara provides insight into learning and demonstrates strategies to use with all children. She received her Bachelor's Degree from central Michigan University and her Master's Degree from Bowling Green State University.

The Idea . . .

During my first year as a speech and language pathologist I had many students who had a hard time expressing themselves. Even to talk about common vocabulary or objects was a challenge. One night I went home and put together a tool to show kids all the things they could include when describing. Using the tool my students started providing 7-8 details about whatever they described. They then used it to write reports. All the students using the EET (students in the gifted and talented, general education, and special education classrooms) made remarkable gains that were almost immediate. When our principal saw the results with the EET, she indicated she wanted all of our teachers using it. I have much gratitude to her and to the many teachers who were the first to welcome the EET into their classrooms.

The Expanding Expression Tool (EET) is a multi-sensory approach used to facilitate more detailed descriptions and definitions. The tool targets oral expression, vocabulary comprehension, similarities and differences, written expression, associations, categorization, functions and more. After a brief literature review (the brain, how children learn, and the norms for defining), the Expanding Expression Tool is introduced with multiple language activities and student samples provided.





iSLP Monthly Tip

Sound Touch is an app designed by parents for toddlers and young children. Simplicity is the key to success with this app. Sound Touch relies only on taps, making it super easy for little fingers to navigate. This app is divided into 6 categories with each page having 12 cartoon items displayed. This

app costs \$1.99 and features 360 sounds and images of animals, exotic animals, birds, vehicles, musical instruments, and common household items. Tap a picture and a real life photo appears with the sound it makes, tap the picture again and the picture disappears. You will discover that each item has not one

but five real pictures and sounds. This app is a wonderful cause and effect app; the first step needed for communication. We have found this app to be beneficial to children with moderate to severe language and articulation delays. Children love the fun of this app, with parents loving the learning.

Day at the Capitol information

Dear Members, May is nationally dedicated as Better Hearing and Speech Month. Each year we take time during this month to visit our State Senators and Representatives to remind them of the essential services we perform in improving the communication skills and lives of children in Louisiana.

This session, with so many bills being presented regarding

the education of our youth, teacher's tenure and retirement, our attendance at LSHA and SPALS May 15th Day at the Capitol is extremely important.

We know how busy your lives and schedules are but please plan to meet us at the state capitol's rotunda from 1-3pm on May 15th and wear our unifying color of red to show our legislators that we are together,

concerned and involved in the decisions that affect our professions and our children.

If you would like to attend LSHA's morning training beginning at 10am, details are on their website at http://lsha.org/day_at_capitol_2006.htm

Together we can show the pride regarding the work we do and our "one voice en masse" will ring out strong and clear...

Deadlines for Grants, Scholarships and Liz Borel Award

SPALS is offering 3 grants up to \$1000. The deadline for application is August 1, 2012.

SPALS is offering 2 Scholarships up to \$1500. The deadline is August 1, 2012

Borel Award nominees are due by July 1, 2012

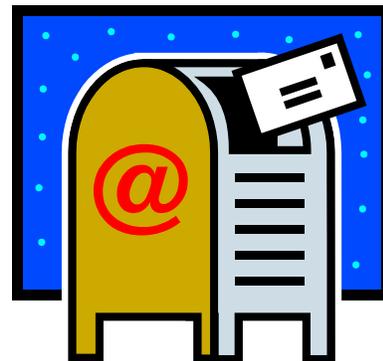
Please see Website and Feb. newsletter for more information. Do not let these valuable opportunities pass by.

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Visit us online at www.spals.org and
<https://www.bigtent.com/groups/spals>



Be on the lookout for the SPALS 2012 Conference Flyer headed to your mailbox this summer.

Also, the newsletter will be on summer vacation June and July but will return in August with more exciting Conference Info...Please began working on your theme baskets..Fiesta for the upcoming Conference.

Also conference Registration Deadlines have moved from 9/1 to 8/1 this year due to the conference being held in September this year..

Hope to See ya'll in Baton Rouge! Have a great Summer!