



Center on Human Development and Disability
University of Washington
Autism Center News & Notes

Fall 2017

Meet Our New Speech Therapist!

Tanna Neufeld, MS, CCC-SLP joined our team this summer to expand speech therapy services in our Seattle clinic. Tanna is a Florida native who moved to the Seattle area in 2011. She brings over 10 years of experience working with children and young adults with ASD. She has a unique passion and extensive skills in the areas of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and caregiver education to support the complex communication needs of individuals with ASD. Contact our intake department [here](#) if you'd like to find out more about our expanded speech therapy services.



APEX Summer Camp Featured in *Perspectives Newsletter*



APEX Summer Camp 2017 was one of the highlights of our summer! APEX and the people who make it special are featured in the September UW College of Arts and Sciences' *Perspectives Newsletter*. The APEX program provides advanced training to graduate and undergraduate students from around the country, including UW students in Psychology and Speech & Hearing Sciences. Click [here](#) to read how our program helped build skills for over 90 kids this summer and trained over 40 staff!

Training and School Services News

Back to School Trainings!

Academic and Organizational Success for Middle and High School Students: Join us at our Tacoma clinic on **Saturday, September 30, from 9am-4pm** to learn strategies that will help student achieve academic and organizational success. In addition, participants will learn how to create and implement systems or reinforcement to motivate and encourage independence. [Click here for more information](#)



ABA Boot Camp: In this 3-day workshop on **October 11-13 from 9am-4pm**, participants will learn to work effectively with children with autism using evidenced-based strategies from the principles of applied behavior analysis. Opportunities for hands-on practice and coaching while working with individuals with autism help make this workshop exciting and effective preparing you to use these strategies in your instructional setting (home or school). [Click here for more information](#)

For information about other trainings and school services, click [here!](#)



Tips for a Smooth Transition Back to School

A new school year has arrived, which means a new grade, perhaps a new teacher, new IEP goals, and maybe even a new school! Here are a few tips that we hope will help you and your child transition into a new school year smoothly and successfully!

Tip #1: Get Organized

Gather your child's past IEP and related documents. Create a binder or folder to keep these documents together. Review the school calendar and add important event and meeting dates to your family calendar. Keep the contact information for your child's teacher and other members of the education team accessible for ongoing communication throughout the year.

Tip #2: Review Your Child's Current IEP

Take note of when the IEP expires and if your child is up for reevaluation this year. Review the goals and accommodations outlined and assess how well these "fit" your child's current needs. If your child's needs have changed, contact the school about holding an IEP review meeting to discuss potential changes to the IEP.

Tip #3: Start a Communication Log

Create a "communication log" notebook to keep track of all phone calls, e-mails, notes home, meetings, and conferences. Office supply stores sell phone message logs that may fit the bill! Be sure to note the names, dates, times, and nature of the communications you have. Consider creating a communication notebook to facilitate communication between you and your child's educational team as well. Educators and therapists can write a quick summary of progress, challenges, and other notable events in your child's school day. You can share the same for progress and notable events at home. This notebook can be placed in your child's backpack each day and serve as one way for you to keep ongoing communication with your child's team.

Tip #4: Relieve Back-to-School Jitters

Talking about the upcoming year and changes can help ease anxiety and create excitement. Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events coming up in the school year. If attending a new school, try to schedule a visit before the first day. With older students, it is helpful to explain the services and accommodations in their IEP so that they know what to expect when school begins. For some students, using a social story can be a helpful way to introduce changes and expectations. If there will be changes to your before and after school routines, discuss and plan for these changes ahead of time and do some "practice runs" in the week or so leading up to the first day of school.

Tips #5: Stay Informed and Inform Others

It is important that you and your school team communicate early and often! If there is anything) that you feel is important to share with the staff working with your child before school starts, or during the year, contact them. Stay informed on local and national topics related to special education and your child's program by reviewing online resources, attending school events, and connecting with your school's special needs PTA. Wishing your family a smooth transition to a fun-filled, successful school year!

Tanna Neufeld, MS, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist

Lewis County Autism Coalition SW WA Autism Conference

The 7th Annual Southwest Washington Autism Conference will be held Friday, October 27th at Centralia College!

Check out the flyer for more details, and click through to the [Lewis County Autism Coalition website here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual

Southwest Washington Autism Conference

Friday, October 27, 2017 9am-2:30 pm

Centralia College

TAKING ACTION:

Planning for Lifelong Success

Keynote Speaker: Monica Meyer

Autism Advocate and Mom

Vendors

Networking

Lunch

Workshops

- One featuring Russell Lehmann

Sponsored by:



In Cooperation with:



Registration Starting August 18, 2017 at lcautism.org

QUESTIONS/MORE INFO? EMAIL: CONFERENCE@LCAUTISM.ORG



Maggie the Mug!

The UWAC is happy to announce one of our new mascots! #MaggietheMug has joined us in



UWAC Husky!

Our UWAC Husky had a wonderful time observing the solar eclipse this past month in

raising awareness of ASD. Follow us to keep an eye out for her on our social media pages, and perhaps spot her in your neighborhood!

Oregon. Our very own Katy Parrish of UWAC Tacoma was kind enough to bring her on vacation and give her a pair of viewing glasses!



[Visit our website](#)