



Voice

A Publication of the Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children

WHAT IS THE ROBERT E. ASKER SCOTTISH RITE SPEECH THERAPY CENTER FOR CHILDREN?

That is a good and reasonable question we frequently fail to address. First and foremost, the SRSTCC is a charitable program to provide speech/language therapy to children of families who may not have adequate insurance or financial means to obtain professional therapy for their children. In those situations, the Center is here to assist those families.

With local speech therapy charges approaching \$300.00 for a one-half hour session, it is easy to understand how young families could be strapped for cash to provide adequate speech/language therapy to their children. It is because of this true life situation that the Scottish Rite Mason have stepped forward to create a charity that can provide these professional services. These services are branded nationally with the RiteCare name and logo.

Scottish Rite Masons in the United States and Canada have worked hard at creating the network of speech therapy centers across these two nations with nearly 200 in operation today. North Dakotans are fortunate to have two Centers in our state. One in Fargo serving the Red River Valley and the Robert E. Asker Center in Bismarck serving Western North Dakota.

Pre-school children, between the ages of two and seven, seen at the Center in Bismarck generally come from within 60 miles of Bismarck/Mandan. Several years ago, in order to serve a larger area, the Center implemented a system of remote therapy using the Internet and a variety of computer programs. The foresight of the Center in Bismarck to provide remote therapy services, became a valuable tool with the COVID pandemic arriving. Remote therapy can be and is used as just one tool in the toolbox to provide speech/language therapy, but it can only be effective when used with proper and involved parental participation.

The Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children has been providing therapy for some 29 years, thanks to the many caring people, businesses, and companies that contribute to support the Center's programs. Information on how to become a supporter of the Center can be found in this newsletter, by contacting the Center, or online at www.scottishritespeech.org.



Serving the children of western North Dakota for more than 29 years!

Winter/Spring 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Sure, you can help!

Finally, like every year, winter is fading into the past and spring is on the horizon as our days in this northern climate are getting longer—thankfully!

And I want to thank each and every one of you for your past support of the Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children. Without you, we would not be able to provide valuable speech therapy to the little children of Western North Dakota.

In conversations with friends or acquaintances I am frequently asked how they could regularly support the Center. I often suggest a personal or company check to the Center in honor of a special event or person. For example, a contribution in honor of a birthday, anniversary, (yours or other friend or family member) or any other special event. These are all good means of supporting the Center's efforts.

Another idea would be to give a gift to honor or thank someone for a kindness shown you. Or simply because of your respect for someone. Of course, memorials in the name of a departed family member, or friend are always welcome.

Every once in a while, the subject of estate planning comes up as a means of supporting the center. I always encourage those people to visit with their families and to contact an attorney, accountant or tax advisor. I suggest they also include a statement in their will or codicil with specific language, such as: "I give ____% of the residue of my estate (or describe the property) or \$_____ to the Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization with a federal taxpayer identification of 36-3775496, located at 1009 Basin Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58504."

Whatever method a donor should choose to support the Center, all gifts will be acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes, as well as a letter sent to the honored person, or to grieving families informing them of your generous gift.*

Once more, on behalf of the board of directors and the children we serve, thank you for your past and continued support!

* When giving an honorarium or memorial, please include names and addresses of all parties so your gift can be given proper recognition.

Sincerely,

Don Laschkewitsch, President



Find us on:
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<https://www.facebook.com/scottishritespeechtherapycenterforchildren>

Please visit our website: www.scottishritespeech.org

CINDY'S CORNER

By: *Cindy Neff, MS CCC-SLP*



MAYBE WE CAN HELP?

The Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children is available Monday through Friday. Visits can be made either in person at the building or online, virtually. For questions, please feel free to visit the Center's website at www.scottishritespeech.org

or by calling the Center at 701-258-9132.

SO LONG

The Center said goodbye to co-worker and friend, Lynn Buri. January brought in the New Year and a new beginning for him and his wife Peggy. The Center gives a heartfelt thank you to Lynn for everything from handywork to answering computer questions. Missed will be the thundering sound of his early morning motorcycle ride to the building and the words, "Here comes Lynn". Farewell, best wishes and "happy trails".

WELCOME BACK

The Center is happy to welcome Leela Bina back. Her weekly visits, since 2004, keeps the Center on track and kept together. It is hard to believe how fast 17 years have gone. Thank you, Leela, for your service and friendship.

29 CANDLES

Because of the vision of founder, Robert E. Asker, the Center will celebrate its birthday on April 6. His dream of a speech and language center for children was launched 29 years ago. A plaque with Mr. Asker's photo, placed on the waiting room wall, greets all guests of the Center with his warm smile.

COWBOY SAYIN':

Lettin' the cat outta the bag a whole lot easier than puttin' it back!

MIXIN' UP SOME GRUB:

As you prepare to hit the dusty trails, what are your favorite trail mix-ins?

- Pretzels
- Cheese crackers
- Cheerios
- Chex
- Raisins, dried cranberries or other dried fruit
- Mini marshmallows
- M & M's
- Pumpkin seed
- Chocolate, butterscotch, or peanut butter chips
- Gold Fish
- Teddy Grahams
- Golden Grahams
- Sunflower seeds
- Granola
- Popcorn
- Chocolate or yogurt covered raisins
- Nuts

*Proudly serving the
Robert E. Asker
Scottish Rite
Speech Therapy
Center for Children*

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WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

Living with childhood speech impairment can be very frustrating not only for the child but the family as well. For successful communication to occur, the speaker must be able to communicate wants, needs, feelings and ideas properly so the listener can fully understand the child's efforts. Misunderstandings in communication are frustrating, no matter the age.

Siblings of children facing a communication challenge also feel the impact. Some siblings take on the role of interpreter. Some also become the protector in instances of teasing and bullying, and have genuine concern or worry for their brother or sister.

Parents of children with a communication challenge often use solutions such as show me, point to, say it again, practicing,



or even giving the child methods for saying the sound correctly. These may be effective sometimes, but not all of the time. A better solution is to seek out professional speech therapy services. Professional speech therapy will focus on the "how tos" as well as

strategies for effective listening and how to deal with frustration.

Some children don't perceive their speech as being a problem. Instead, children may view the listener as having a listening problem so the child will speak louder. Some children may even feel happy about their speech even though others do not understand them. Increasing a child's awareness of his or her speech is an important component of therapy.

When a young child does not perceive a problem with their speech, they may feel less inclined to participate in therapy. By increasing their awareness as a problem with their speaking, children may be more motivated to participate.

When a child feels frustrated about their communication, they may display outward signs such as yelling or having a tantrum. Others may internalize frustration and chose not to talk or play alone to avoid talking to others. Some children may allow others to speak in their place. Some may make a choice to talk to only those who understand them.

Speech therapy will address the mechanics of producing sounds correctly, and will also discuss ways to be good listeners. Further, the speech therapist will offer suggestions for the child and family to cope with the frustration of a communication disorder.

WHAT IS COMMUNICATION?

Communication is the act of sending, receiving, and interpreting information. Information can be in the form of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Misunderstanding can happen at any stage of the communication process. The goal of communication is shared understanding. Lessening any possible misunderstanding and overcoming any barriers are important.

Successful communication involves:

- ◆ Understanding your audience
- ◆ Seeking feedback
- ◆ Correcting misunderstanding or confusion
- ◆ Clarifying
- ◆ Reflecting
- ◆ Using "plain English"

Some barriers to communication:

- ◆ Using complicated words
- ◆ Hearing or speech differences
- ◆ Visual barriers
- ◆ Language differences
- ◆ Interpretation of the message

Is being able to communicate effectively one of the most important life skills? Communication sounds simple, but not always easy. Communicating accurately and effectively clearly takes practice.

COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS CAN IMPACT TODDLERS BEHAVIOR

It is good clinical practice to assess both language skills and behavioral adjustment in children referred for a speech and language evaluation. However, language delay and behavioral problems may not always be linked in toddlers. It is common to find toddlers with language delays and no behavioral problems associated with communication. It is also common to find toddlers with behavioral problems with no communication problems.

It is very important for speech/language professionals (SLP) to obtain opinions from several different people, such as day care providers, pediatricians, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and compare notes about a child's communication and the impact communication has on a child's activities of daily living. It is common to find differing reports, and the reason for these differences is because each person has a different standard for what is normal, has a unique relationship with the child, and interacts with the child differently. So, it is important for the SLP to look for consistencies and inconsistencies within the comments received

and consider these during assessment and recommendations.

It is important to note, however, that when toddlers become preschoolers and are expected to communicate and interact according to more socially accepted norms, preschoolers may begin to display behavioral and emotional problems that were not present as toddlers. Some behavioral and emotional problems might have been present before age three but may be more evident to teachers than to parents when children get older.

Even though a toddler may not display emotional or behavioral problems as a result of language delay, delays at the preschool age may become more apparent because of the demands for communication. Therefore, it is important to refer toddlers for a speech and language evaluation. Early intervention may prevent or minimize emotional and behavioral impact in the preschool years.



365 CLUB

Here is a great opportunity for you to show your support for the Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children by joining the 365 Club. By contributing \$200.00 you will pay for the total costs for one day of Center operations and be a member of the 365 Club for the year.

The 365 Club is a great way to honor someone or something important in your life. Along with your contribution, you can select the day of the year you wish to sponsor. You could honor your spouse's birthday, or your anniversary date, or your grandchildren's birthdays, or any day that is important in your family.

All you need to do is to send your check in the amount of \$200.00 for each day you would like to honor someone and your name will be prominently posted on the list of 365 Club members for all to see. Simply mail your check to the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children, Attention 365 Club, PO Box 2094, Bismarck, ND 58502-2094. And yes, your contribution may be tax deductible as the Center is organized under IRS Regulation, 501 (c)(3).

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

You can help local area children. If you know of a family who may have a child that could benefit from speech therapy, please encourage them to call the Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children. The Center accepts children from toddlers to pre-school to early elementary age for speech therapy.

REMEMBER -- it starts with a phone call to Cindy - 701 - 258 - 9132.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE...

In an effort to make it easier to send an email to Cindy, the Center's speech therapist, she has been assigned a new email address. Her old email address will still work for a short time but will soon be phased out.

So, if you would like to contact Cindy by email, please use her new address, effective immediately:

speechtherapy@bismarckscottishrite.org

Thank you!

Please visit our website: www.scottishritespeech.org

Thank You One and All!

Wonderful community support enables the **Robert E. Asker Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children** to provide free professional speech/language therapy to children in Western North Dakota. Thankfully, the Center is making headway solving children's communication challenges - one child at a time.

The Center wishes to acknowledge and very gratefully thank all those who have made contributions to the Center for the period from September 26, 2020 through February 5, 2021.

Laurel and Rodney Rick
Carl and Carol Edgerly
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Winter/Spring 2021

Scottish Rite Speech Therapy
Center for Children
PO Box 2094
1009 Basin Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58502-2094

CELEBRATING
29
YEARS OF SERVICE



What is the Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children (SRSTCC)?

The SRSTCC is a charitable branch of Scottish Rite Freemasonry that helps pre-school and early elementary children with speech and/or language problems.

Who is eligible for treatment?

Free speech therapy is available to any child who is aged two to seven years old, without regard to race, color, creed or gender, provided they are unable to pay for or receive adequate therapy elsewhere.

How can one contact the Center?

Scottish Rite Speech Therapy Center for Children
PO Box 2094
Bismarck, ND 58502-2094
Phone: 701-258-9132
www.scottishritespeech.org

How Can I Support This Clinic?

Your support is solicited and welcomed by any method you choose.

- Direct Contributions
- Memorials for Loved Ones
- Honorariums
- An Expression of Thanks for Someone
- Join the 365 Club
- PayPal

Whatever method you choose, all contributions may be tax deductible as allowed by IRS Regulations 501 (c)(3).

