

RiteView is a publication of the Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Clinical Partner Programs. For more information, please contact:
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May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

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 Kelley Family/Schlessman Family Scottish Rite Masons Chair
 in Childhood Language Disorders

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Spring is early this year! Walking around our neighborhood in mid-April, I enjoyed the sights and smells of the season ~ brilliantly red tulips nodding in a slight breeze, spritely yellow forsythia bursting out of bare branches, gloriously purple lilacs scenting the air. All this glory reminded me to celebrate the moment and be grateful for our blessings!

It was a real joy to celebrate the moment(s) with St. Mary's Life Center in Grand Junction on April 14th. At a wonderful event hosted at St. Mary's, John Groves, Master of Ceremonies and Scottish Rite Foundation (SRF) Vice President, led us through the 25 years of support that the SRF has provided to children and families in the Grand Junction community. The numbers are truly impressive ~ 25 years, \$2.6 million, and 1266 children. Congratulations to the dedicated staff at St. Mary's Life Center who have made such a difference for children in their community.

Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado Appraisal Committee
 St. Mary's Life Center, Grand Junction



Above left to right; John Groves, James Smith, Don Hobbs, James McBride, Richard Carnett, Amy Neilsen, and Steve Bennett

In this RiteView, read about the many "May is Better Hearing and Speech Month" events that RiteCare programs have planned for their communities. Because of the Scottish Rite Foundation, every month is better hearing and speech month for youngsters in our care.

"In all sincere speech there is power, not necessarily great power, but as much as the speaker is capable of." - [George Henry Lewes](#)

Treasure Chest Program – Cortez

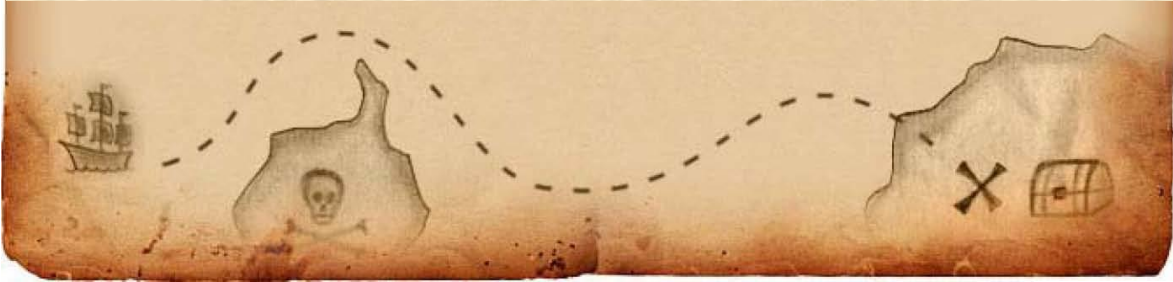
Happy Spring from The Treasure Chest Program at The Pinon Project in Cortez! We were excited to be a part of the Montelores Early Childhood Fair held on April 14 at the Monezuma County Annex. Over 260 children attended the fair and had the opportunity to participate in free vision, hearing and social-emotional developmental screenings. Exhibitors included local preschools, libraries, public and behavioral health programs and other early childhood education programs. It was great to see many Treasure Chest families among those in attendance and to be able to introduce Treasure Chest to new families in this fun and collaborative community setting! Although next month will be the end of the 2011-2012 school year for many of the preschool programs which participate in The Treasure Chest Program, families will still be able to participate through the summer at the Cortez and Dolores libraries, The Tree House Early Learning Center at The Pinon Project and The Dove's Nest Center in Dove Creek, as well as through ongoing parenting education programs offered through The Pinon Project, including Parents As Teachers. Thanks to the continued generous funding of this program by the Scottish Rite Masons of Colorado through RiteCare, we have been able to continue to provide quality books and materials to parents of children ages 0-5 at preschool program sites as well as more individualized materials through home visits with Parents As Teachers families. We are so grateful for the Scottish Rite Foundation's renewal of funding of the Cortez/Pinon Treasure Chest Program for 2012 at the same generous level allowing us to continue to provide this rich and unique program to families in the Four Corners Region of Colorado.



“Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him.”

[Maya Angelou](#)

***Submitted by: Karen Winchester
 Treasure Chest Coordinator
 The Piñon Project, Cortez***



Treasure Chest Program - Grand Junction

Submitted by Carmen Marsh, Treasure Chest Coordinator
 Rocky Mountain SER Head Start, Grand Junction
The Mini Treasure Chest

We have implemented a **Mini Treasure Chest Program**, that is now available to parents and families who are not able to participate in the Treasure Chest Program due to limited space. These mini tubs can be checked out from The Head Start center classrooms. These smaller tubs contain similar materials that are in the bigger tubs. Families who take them home are able to work with their children on a weekly theme. Parents enjoy the opportunity to participate in this program using fun learning activities they can do with their children. This is another great example of how the Treasure Chest Program offers families the opportunity to participate in a language and literacy development program to benefit their children.





Children's Hospital Colorado

Melissa says that mealtimes have been a lot easier for her 5 year old son Massimo (Max). Max started feeding therapy in June 2011 with Holly Knotowicz, MA CCC-SLP. His speech-language delays and feeding difficulties are attributed to a complicated medical history including; cerebral foliate deficiency, combined immune deficiency, unspecified metabolic disorder, and ataxia.

Max has had a great deal of difficulty learning to eat and developing feeding skills. He has a sensitive gag reflex and strong negative reactions to the textures of different foods. A feeding tube was placed due to a history of poor growth and difficulty taking his medications and enough fluids. Because of these difficulties, Max's mother said that he used to "despise food" and "check out" during mealtimes. Now, he has gone from a diet of only 10 accepted foods up to approximately 25 foods that he will accept on a regular basis. For the first time, he is telling his parents **"I'm hungry"**, **"I'm thirsty"**, and, **"I want to try that [food]"**.

Melissa credits Holly's creative therapy strategies with her son's improvements. A picture chart was given to Max and his family to show small steps that he can take with new foods, such as touching, smelling, licking or kissing the food.

Understanding Feeding and Swallowing Difficulties

The parents that walk through the doors of the RiteCare clinics each week hope to see their children thrive; physically, emotionally, socially and educationally. Each child seen is on a journey to overcome various challenges that threaten their growth and development. Delays in the area of feeding and swallowing challenge children's ability to meet this full potential because proper nutrition lays the groundwork for development in several areas.

Feeding difficulties can manifest in many ways. Some of the children receiving services have a history of chronic poor growth which can be a result of a myriad of causes. Many children refuse food because it has been an uncomfortable or painful thing for them in the past, due to allergies or reflux disease. Food refusal may also arise because of underdeveloped oral structures, making it difficult to chew and swallow food safely. Other children are at risk of aspirating, taking food and/or liquids into their lungs; some of which are on G-tube feedings (feedings directly into the stomach). Another group of children we see are trying to eat again after being "tube fed" for a period of time. Food coming through their mouth can seem foreign to them.

A Child Benefits from Speech-Language and Feeding Therapy

Children's Hospital Colorado Therapy Care Parker

Submitted by: Jennifer Maybee, OTR, MA CCC-SLP



*Above: Max enjoys a game and snack
Below: Max and Holly experience a new food*



These small steps give Max a chance to try new foods in a way that feels safe for him. Holly has also given Max a "star chart" to keep track of all of his successes with eating and trying new foods.

According to Melissa, this strategy has helped decrease some of the "negotiation" at mealtimes about what Max will and will not eat. In addition to working with Holly for feeding therapy, Max also receives speech-language therapy from Holly. Max's mother feels that having the same therapist understand the "big picture" about Max is very helpful. Having a snack in therapy before working on difficult thinking and language tasks has made a big difference for Max. He also has the energy he needs to work hard.

Max has developmental delays in many areas and has many therapy needs. With insurance limitations, Max's parents have had to be selective with which therapies he will receive. The Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado scholarship funding has given Max an opportunity to work on speech therapy. His mother expressed appreciation for the funding he has received and said that without it he would not be where he is today.

Children's Hospital Colorado Therapy Care Pueblo

Submitted by: Rebecca Doidge, Speech-Language Pathologist

Regardless of the cause of the feeding issue, treatment is presented in a consistent systematic routine. Within this routine the child begins to encounter food in a non-threatening way. Each child learns to interact with food at a level that he/she is comfortable with and is encouraged to experience food in new and different ways. Feeding therapy aims to assist with oral motor and oral sensory development, increasing volume of food intake as well as increasing the variety of foods in a child's diet to meet all of their nutritional needs.

Parents play an integral part in the treatment process as well. Parents are trained, through observation and practice in the clinic, to use the same routine and strategies at home. Using this same routine at home provides a sense of safety and trust for the child. When the routine stays the same, the only thing the child needs to adjust to is the new food or oral sensory experience.

Feeding therapy can be very challenging; however, with great challenges come great rewards! It is very gratifying to watch a child try a new food for the first time without tears or forceful presentation, or see the delight in a parent's eye when their child tastes a food that he/she has always refused. These are small steps in the right direction and a glimmer of hope for the anxious family.



Memorial Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Services – Colorado Springs

Submitted: Erica Wendorf RiteCare Program Co-Director, Memorial Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Services



Free Speech, Language, and Hearing Screenings at Memorial

In honor of “Better Hearing and Speech Month,” Memorial Outpatient Pediatric Rehabilitation is offering free speech, language, and hearing screenings for children in our community. The screenings will be performed by our outpatient speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

These free screenings will be offered on **Friday, May 18th from 1:00pm – 4:00pm**. Children that do not pass the screenings will be referred to their doctor and the appropriate specialists for further evaluation and treatment. We are excited to be able to offer this free service to our community for the 7th year!

Ruben’s Story of Learning to Communicate in Play

Ruben is an energetic, playful four-year-old on the autism spectrum. Thanks to funding options from the Scottish Rite Foundation scholarship program, Ruben and his mother are able to participate in our social emotional development program to work on his social communication skills!



During the program, Ruben has worked on improving his ability to initiate interactions, share attention with another while playing, and maintain turn-taking during communication. Ruben, his mother, and his speech-language pathologist, Kristin, recently took advantage of the beautiful spring weather and took a community outing to the park to focus on these goals in a community setting.

A good time was had by all!

Thank You to Scottish Rite!

Parents at Memorial Pediatric Rehabilitation continue to express their gratitude to the Scottish Rite Foundation, which allows their children to participate in much needed speech and language therapy!

Dear Scottish Rite Foundation Appraisal Committee:

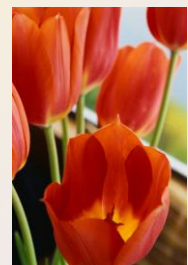
We would like to thank you for your consideration and support of Lennon through his speech therapy. The last six months have been so successful. Ms. Wendy has worked wonderfully with him and his progress and is amazing. We couldn’t do it without her and without your help. We so appreciate your continued support of Lennon as he presses ahead to pre-school.

*Sincerely,
Roman and Deanna*



“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.”

Henry Ward Beecher



Story of Friendship Includes Video Modeling

Story of Friendship is an inclusive peer interaction and social communication intervention group for young children on the autism spectrum at the Speech, Language, Hearing Center at CU Boulder, a RiteCare program. Each of four children with autism, preschool to second grade, brings a typical peer buddy. Each buddy pair is supported in group routines and play interactions by a graduate clinician in speech-language pathology under the supervision of Amy Thrasher, MA, CCC-SLP.

An underlying premise of the Story of Friendship intervention is the use of routine and novelty. Routines provide the child with the ability to predict what will happen, provide clear expectations for each person's role in an interaction, and allow the child to produce a response with decreased anxiety. Routines decrease the "cognitive load" for children, allowing them to focus on the social interaction. By using routines and focusing attention, we can begin to introduce novelty into the routine in fun way while still maintaining the child's sense of security.

In each of the eight sessions of a Story of Friendship group, one story is told and reenacted. The story, in itself, is a routine. The predictable sequence of events, or "story schema," is comforting to children. With each repeated reading, children or adults can add a bit of novelty to this routine. Stories with strong story schema can also provide a model of a play schema, or play routine, for children. For example, this spring we read *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood, a story with a cumulative structure of nappers, lying on top of one another until a flea tickles them, waking them all.

We also added another component to our intervention approach this spring by using video modeling. We captured the basic play schema of the story in a video, using stacking blocks to represent the characters and knocking the blocks down as if to wake the nappers. Video modeling has been proposed as an intervention approach that may be "uniquely suited" to the learning profiles of children with ASD. Videos present information in a visual format, can draw attention to relevant information, and can be created in a way that reduces linguistic demands. While watching the video, the social demands for learning are reduced as well.



We focused on teaching the play schema through storybook reading, story re-enactment and video modeling in the large group story circle. Many children with ASD have difficulties engaging in play schemas that are recognizable or meaningful to their peers. By providing them with a common play schema, we provided children with ASD access to social interaction with their peers.

In an 8 minute "buddy time," the graduate clinician supported the buddy pair to take turns in the play schema using the same or similar materials as those presented in the video models. Individual children required different levels of support or different methods of cuing to engage in turn-taking in the buddy time play schema, such as picture cues. All children engaged in turn-taking in the routine of play schema, and some were able to accept novelty that the clinician or the typical peer introduced.

In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, we held a family night in early April to share our intervention approach, celebrate children's progress, and support families to extend the approach at home. One family reported that their child was now playing the story schema at home by piling all of his stuffed animals on his blanket at naptime! We provided the storybook to the family and coached them to join him in his play. The family later reported that although previously he insisted on reading books that were primarily ABC, counting or labeling books, this was the first storybook that he allowed them to read with him.

Overall, each individual child in the group made progress toward their individual objectives of turn-taking and joint attention with peers. All of the children, those with ASD and typical peers alike, formed a group with greater and greater participation and sense of belonging as we progressed through sessions. We are overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity that the Scottish Rite provides for children with autism, their typical peers and their families to learn and thrive in Story of Friendship at the Speech Language Hearing Center of CU-Boulder.

Amy Thrasher, MA, CCC-SLP
 Clinical Assistant Professor
 Speech, Language, Hearing Center
 University of Colorado Boulder

TALP (Talking and Listening for Preschoolers) Program at University of Northern Colorado



Left; Steven enjoys a letter craft activity



Left; Alex plays with building blocks

Steven and Alex, twins, were adopted from Russia less than a year ago. Both boys have been diagnosed with a hearing loss. Alex, who has a significant hearing loss, is currently undergoing evaluations to determine if he is an appropriate candidate for a cochlear implant. Steven has a mild hearing loss, but is rapidly learning English. These two siblings are currently participating in the Talking and Listening for Preschoolers program at UNC.

Mountain View Therapy Pediatric Rehabilitation Montrose Memorial Hospital

In honor of Better Speech and Hearing month, Mountain View Therapy Pediatric Rehabilitation (MVT) program will host an open house on May 9th. The purpose of the open house is to increase awareness of the speech/language program at the hospital.

We will also be registering children for the 11-week long summer speech groups. This summer MVT will again offer speech groups in Delta. In addition, we are expanding into Cedaredge, a small community on the Grand Mesa, to serve children in that area. We will have 8 SLP's providing these services.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest Appraisal Committee member, Bill Keldas. Our friend Jack Ward has stepped down from the position and is doing some traveling with his lovely wife, Nadine. We have missed Jack's presence at the last few meetings and wish him well. Mr. Kledas seems to have a great understanding of his new responsibility.



Above: The Mountain View Therapy team, wearing their new vests.

A big congratulation's out to the RiteCare program at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. The celebration of 25 years of continued partnership with the RiteCare program was inspiring. The *Distinguished Service Award* presented to Amy Brophy-Neilsen from the *Scottish Rite Foundation of Colorado* was an added bonus to the evening. We are proud of our association with our sister RiteCare clinic in Grand Junction.

In honor of National Hospital Week, Montrose Memorial Hospital provided each employee with a fleece vest with our logo on it. Our pediatric staff would like to show off our new duds and say a great big "Thank You" to our leaders.



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Colorado RiteCare Program Directory

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