

Day Care Speech and Language Program

We would like to tell you a story about success - the success that the team of parents, child care center staff, and the staff of the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center (RHSC) Day Care Speech and Language Program can make possible for your children. Since 1969 our program has provided quality speech services in day care centers and preschool programs in our area. We visit more than 35 preschool and day care centers to be a resource for parents, teachers and children. In addition to providing speech screenings and recommendations, RHSC staff are sometimes the first step in identifying suspected learning problems, spotting hearing loss or helping staff deal with behavioral problems.

Some facts . . .

- ⌞ A child's preschool years are crucial to language development.

- ⌞ 27% of children in Monroe County are between 0 - 4 years old and 10% of these children have speech problems severe enough to qualify for early intervention special education services in a preschool setting.
- ⌞ Early intervention in speech and language problems is the key to future educational success.
- ⌞ RHSC staff are licensed speech-language pathologists who are specifically trained to evaluate, recommend and provide speech-language therapy for a wide range of communication problems.

I. Contract Services

The RHSC contract program offers the following services to participating child care centers:

- ⌞ **Referral** of a child for an individual speech-language screening can come from a parent, child care worker or doctor. Screenings are scheduled at the child's center as soon as it is mutually convenient.
- ⌞ **Monitoring** may be necessary if the child shows borderline - normal speech-language development. The child will be retested at the child care center in 3 - 6 months.
- ⌞ **Recommendations** for speech-language therapy or special education programs may be made. If the child is enrolled in one of RHSC's satellite locations, or if the child is eligible for

Committee on Preschool Special Education related services, speech therapy can be provided on-site at the child care center he or she attends.

- ⌞ **Conferences** are scheduled at the day care center as often as necessary. With parents, child care staff and speech-language pathologists working together, often a child will make rapid progress.
- ⌞ **Classroom demonstrations and inservice presentations** by speech-language pathologists can focus teachers on the needs of an individual child or help teachers create a stimulating environment that will enhance the communication skills of all the children.

II. Satellite Services

- ⌞ A number of child care centers are designated satellites and receive a full range of speech evaluation and therapy services from RHSC staff.
- ⌞ Speech-language therapy is offered twice weekly for the child in familiar surroundings.
- ⌞ Speech-language therapy provided at the child care center allows parents not to have to leave work to provide transportation.
- ⌞ Children from other centers or the community at large can also be scheduled at a satellite center if time permits.

