

TALC ACADEMY

The Speech & Language School Junior Kindergarten to Grade Three

Speech Pathologist and Academy Director Judy Nathanson is pleased to announce that TALC Academy is now accepting applications for the fall of 2000. TALC Academy is for children with specific and intensive speech and language needs. Children with a history of speech and language delay, expressive and receptive vocabulary difficulties, auditory memory delay, weaknesses in the areas of grammar skills, auditory processing, sequencing, severe phonological or oral motor difficulties would all benefit from the specialized program. In addition, children in Grades One to Three experiencing difficulty with reading, spelling, written language, and the language of mathematics are appropriate candidates.

TALC Academy is a full year program for primary aged children. Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes as well as a Grades One, Two and Three program are offered at the Academy. Speech Language Pathologist and Director Judy Nathanson explains that as well as individualized classroom programming and small class sizes students receive daily, individual one to one speech and language therapy. "There are many children with intensive speech and language needs who would benefit from daily one to one therapy", explains Nathanson. "Unfortunately, with the cut backs in the hospital and the school systems, daily one to one therapy or small group support is not available for most children".

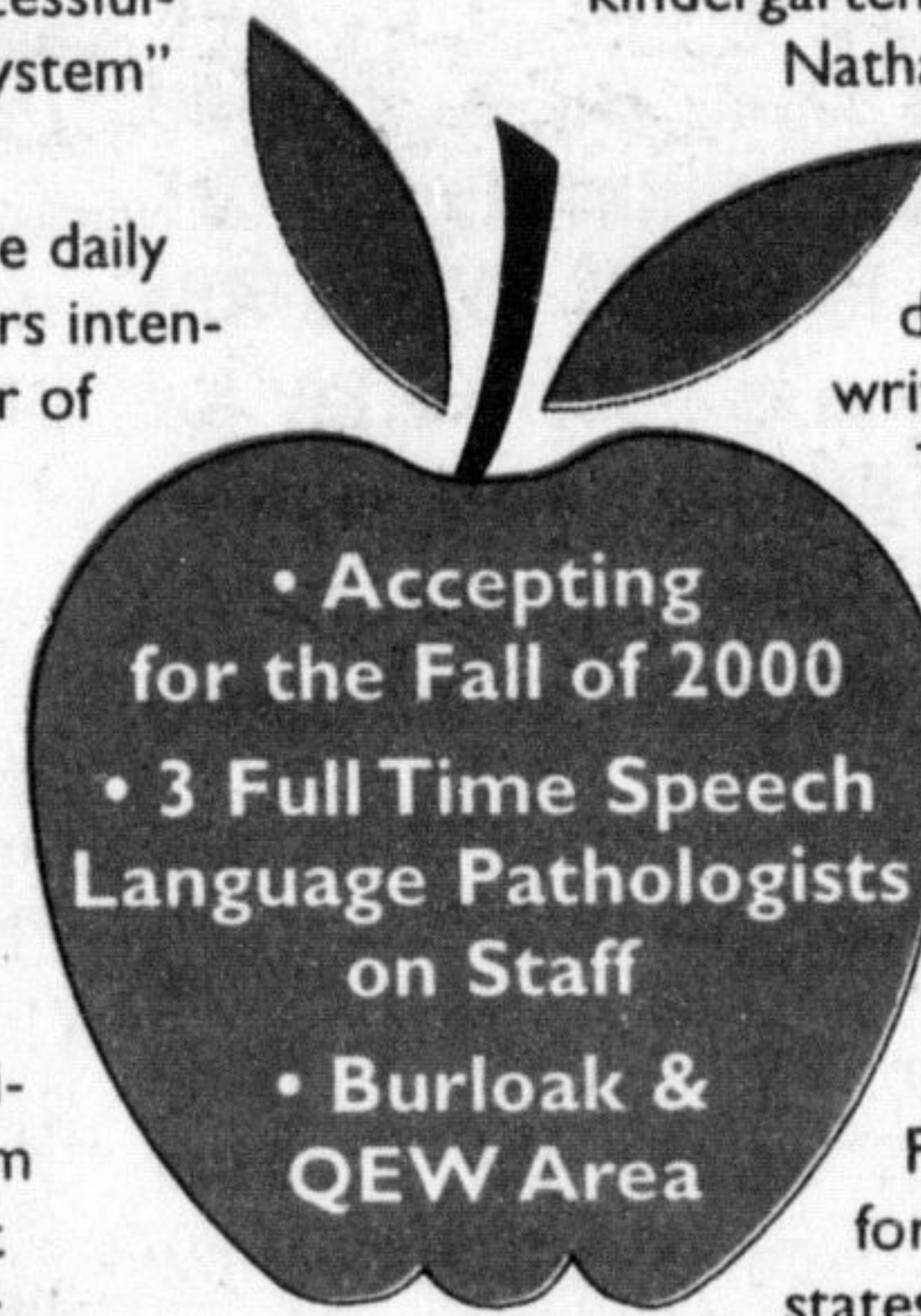
TALC Academy's speech and language focussed curriculum will integrate the individual speech and language needs of the students into the Kindergarten and Primary grade classrooms. The individual therapy goals of each student will be

monitored and enhanced within the language enriched classrooms of TALC Academy. "Our goal is to develop and enhance communication skills so that students will be able to successfully return to the regular school system" states Nathanson.

As well as intensive one to one daily therapy, TALC Academy also offers intensive classroom support. Director of Academic Operations David Fisher explains that the Kindergarten classes at TALC Academy have a maximum of eight students. The Primary classes have a maximum of twelve students with a teacher and educational assistant. "In an environment with this much individual assistance in the classroom we are able to program to meet individual needs" explains Fisher.

The TALC Academy Kindergarten program will use creative play in order to develop speech, oral language and socialization skills. The precursor skills that are necessary for reading such as rhyming, phonemic awareness, letter and sound recognition and patterning are an integral part of the Kindergarten program. The Kindergarten program will also focus on developing memory skills, vocabulary development, grammar skills and auditory processing. "These are vital skills for children to develop" explains Nathanson. "At TALC Academy we present these skills in a way that is fun and allows the students to achieve success at their own level". **Full and Half Day programs**

are available and parents can choose from one to five days a week. "Many parents have also enrolled their children in their local school's kindergarten program as well", explains Nathanson.



Children with speech and language needs very often have a great deal of difficulty acquiring reading and written language skills. The Grade One to Three classroom programs at TALC Academy are focussed on developing these skills. "Children with speech and language needs require a great deal of individual programming and direct instruction in the area of phonics. There are many different types of phonics programs that we use for children" explains David Fisher. Fisher, who is a past nominee for T.V. Ontario's Teacher of the Year states "that we have found that some children master the Phonetic rules when they are presented in the form of songs. Other children need a more visual approach and for these children we use a colour coded word family approach. With individualized programming, we can use the method that works best for each child". The remainder of the Primary program, including math, science, social studies, music and physical education is presented in a manner that emphasizes language skills.

Director and Speech Language Pathologist Judy Nathanson has an extensive background with providing innovative speech and language programming for children. She has been a Speech

Language Pathologist for the past twenty seven years and has worked in hospital and school board settings all across Canada. She has a Master's of Education Degree. TALC Academy will be starting its third year in September. For the past six years she has operated CAMP TALC which provides speech and language programming for children between the ages of three and ten. Judy is also affiliated with McGill University where she supervises Master Level students in the Speech Pathology Program.

"TALC Academy is in operation because parents asked for intensive and innovative speech and language services for their children" explains Judy Nathanson. "Parents of children with speech and language difficulties know that the resources are not available in the system to help their children reach their potential, TALC Academy is for parents seeking intensive individual programming and daily therapy for their children so that they will be ready to enter or return to the school system with a firm foundation of speech and language skills. Our program is very specialized and unique. The children we work with have intensive speech and language needs. We have a big job to do in order to meet their needs and we love doing it".

In order to find out more about TALC Academy and how it can help meet the needs of your child, please call Judy at (905) 319-7011.

CAMP TALC

Unique Summer Camp Can Help Your Child with Speech, Language & Academics

According to David Fisher and Judy Nathanson, if your child is having speech, language or academic difficulties, your child needs to go to their summer camp.

Six years ago, Nathanson and Fisher were frustrated with the cutbacks and long waiting lists for Speech and Language services for children. Their frustration led them to establish a summer day camp for children with speech, language and academic difficulties. Camp TALC (Thinking, Articulation, Language and Communication) offers children daily, individual, one to one speech and language therapy. They may also receive individual and small group assistance for phonics, written language and math. Judy Nathanson is a Registered Speech Language Pathologist and David Fisher is an experienced primary teacher. Together they have created a program in which children who are having difficulty learning can be successful. David Fisher says "This is a unique and creative way of delivering speech and language services to children in need. Children can receive one hour of one to one therapy in a fun filled camp environment".

According to Judy Nathanson up to ten percent of school age children can have speech or language difficulties. These difficulties can impact on a student's academic growth in all areas of the school program. These difficulties may include reading and written language problems, articulation problems, phonological disorders, difficulties processing oral information, memory difficulties, weak vocabulary skills, oral formulation problems, and social language difficulties. "Early intervention and programming can ensure that a child with speech and language difficulties can be successful at school", explains Judy Nathanson.

Of course one of the effects of government cutbacks to schools and hospitals has been that access to speech and language services for children have been reduced. "Parents are faced with long waiting lists for speech and language services", states David Fisher. "Our purpose in starting Camp TALC was to design an innovative speech and language program where learning is fun. This is our sixth summer operating a language camp". The camp is located in the Burloak/QEW area. **Half and Full day programs are available in two week blocks from July 3 to August 11.**

INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING

"We believe that children need programming designed to meet their individual needs. That's why we screen all of our campers before the start of camp", says Judy Nathanson. As a result the camp program is intensive and offers all round speech and language stimulation. "Every part of our camp program is designed to stimulate a child's language skills. The one to one therapy that the children receive is reinforced by the other program elements". **Each half day camp program includes one hour of one to one therapy** as well as two hours of reading and written language programs, arts and crafts and music, drama and games. All parts of the camp program are language based. For example, in Music, Drama and Games, simple children's games and songs are used to reinforce such concepts as vocabulary, letter sounds and speech and language skills.

READING AND PHONICS

Children with speech and language difficulties, typically have problems when they are learning to read. The Camp TALC program has been very successful in teaching and reading skills. "We offer a variety of reading approaches for children and will use the approach that works best for each child. We believe strongly in the importance of phonics, but we have a number of different methods of teaching phonics", explains David Fisher. "Some children can acquire the phonics skills using music and songs. Other children may need a more visual approach that may include word families and colour coding". As well as the individual and small group phonics instruction, campers receive reading and writing programming each day in their larger camp group. "Children can practice and use the skills that they are learning in the one to one sessions and in the group setting each day. Our reading program has been so successful, that

we have a number of children who do not have speech or language difficulties register with us for specific help with reading skills" state Nathanson and Fisher.

PLACEMENT SITE FOR MCGILL UNIVERSITY

"The success of the camp is a result of the fabulous people we have working with us", explains Judy Nathanson. Camp TALC is one of the clinical placement sites for students at McGill University who are in the Masters Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders. This year eleven Speech Pathology students will be working under Judy's supervision and as a result we are able to offer a one to two staff-student ratio. We have found that when the students are given this much individual attention, the academic gains can be quite remarkable," says David Fisher. Some of the staff has been with Camp TALC for six years. "All of the staff undergoes a highly intensive speech and language training before camp starts", says Judy Nathanson. "As a result, the children receive intensive speech and language stimulation and monitoring".

JKSK AND MATH

Camp TALC offers a Junior Kindergarten and a Senior Kindergarten program for children ages three to five. They receive individual speech and language therapy if needed, as well as a language rich Kindergarten program that will enable these children to develop the necessary precursory skills for reading and writing. Camp TALC also offers Math Remediation. "We have found that many of our children experience difficulties in mathematics because they do not understand the language of mathematics," explains Judy Nathanson. "We are offering individual one to one assistance and small group programming that will use hands on materials in order to understand the language and concepts associated with mathematics."

REMIEDIATION, ENRICHMENT

For the many parents who are looking for extra assistance for their children over the summer, Camp TALC,

offers the perfect solution. The individualized programs and the low staff student ratio assists each camper with their needs. The camp program can help make sure that students do not let their academic skills "slip" over the summer. Parents who are looking for enrichment opportunities in the areas of mathematics, reading and writing can help their children design an individualized program for their children.

At the end of the camp session, parents will be given a speech and language summary report that can be shared with their child's school in September to assist with programming. Daily communication books are sent home each day from camp with games and follow up activities. At the end of the summer Judy can help design a program so that parents can continue to work with their children.

SUMMER FUN

The only thing that both Judy Nathanson and David Fisher are adamant about is that the camp program has to be fun. "Parents can tell their children that are coming to camp. It is not school. Too many of our campers have been unsuccessful in school. We do camp things, sing camp songs and play camp games. It is just that our camp focuses on speech and language, reading and writing and math. Kids learn these skills while they are singing and playing and they don't even realize that they are learning," explains Judy Nathanson.

"With all of the cutbacks to school and hospital programs, Camp TALC is providing desperately needed services for children at risk. Over the past summers we have had fabulous feedback from parents regarding the camp program and their children's growth in all areas. We are more than happy to provide parents with references" says David Fisher. "We are really proud of our camp and the work we do with the children. We offer parents this pledge.

Register your child with Camp TALC, and, if after the first week you are not happy, we will gladly refund your money.

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