

ART SPEAKS

A joint program by
SPEECH PATHways & Tomorrow's Treasures

What is ART SPEAKS?

ART SPEAKS is an innovative program created by SPEECH PATHways (pediatric speech-language pathology practice) and Tomorrow's Treasures (art studio). The program is specifically designed for children with language and learning disabilities.

- Classes for Preschool & School-Age Children
- Individual and Group Instruction Available
- Classes meet weekly for 6-week sessions
- Low adult/child ratios
- Art instruction by local artist, instructor & studio owner
- Language instruction by licensed and certified pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist
- Typically developing peer model(s) in each group



Goals of ART SPEAKS

- Improve peer relationships
- Learn to read & respond appropriately to social cues
- Learn to read & use body language appropriately
- Learn to identify, express & respond to emotions
- Learn to express self through various art mediums (emotions)
- Improve communication & social exchanges
- Build and maintain friendships
- Opportunity for children with developmental delays to experience art and various art mediums

Who Would Benefit from ART SPEAKS?

Children with any of the following challenges would benefit:

- Autism spectrum disorders (PDD, autism, Asperger's)
- Language delays/disabilities
- Social skills/pragmatic deficits
- Learning disabilities
- Developmental delays & disabilities
- Motor-planning disorders
- Sensory disorders
- Attention issues
- Auditory processing issues
- Cognitive delays
- Behavioral issues

Research has shown that using "art" as an outlet for expressing feelings and ideas can be very successful in children with disabilities. No skills are required for ART SPEAKS; the "art" requires no artistic ability. ART SPEAKS will facilitate the use of visual symbols (artwork) as a means of expression for children who typically struggle in these areas. The child's creations will facilitate expressive communication and social skills. At the end of each 6-week session, children will display their creations at an ART SPEAKS exhibit!

What are the Benefits of an Arts Education?

Research shows that the benefits of early arts education extend way beyond providing a creative outlet for children. An Arts Education:

- Heightens self-esteem
- Develops cognitive skills
- Develops problem-solving skills
- Develops language
- Develops social skills
- Facilitates listening skills
- Encourages attention
- Decrease impulsiveness
- Allows for expression and creativity
- Facilitates imagination
- Encourages risk taking
- Improves visual discrimination skills
- Improves fine motor skills
- Develops self-discipline and responsibility
- Increases motivation to learn
- Provides fulfillment through productivity
- Creates cultural and historical awareness
- Develops ability to make aesthetic judgments
- Tends to improve academic performance

Location

Groups Meet at Tomorrow's Treasures Art Studio, 2251 Penn View Drive, Manchester, MD 21102, off Route 30, near the MD/PA line.

Registration

Summer of 2007 classes are forming now for Thursdays (day & evening). For more information or to register, contact SPEECH PATHways at 410.374.0555 or visit www.speechpathways.net.

About SPEECH PATHways

SPEECH PATHways is the only comprehensive pediatric speech-language pathology clinic in Carroll County, Maryland, offering services since 1999. Owner Kimberly A. Bell, M.S., CCC-SLP, has been a speech and language pathologist for over ten years. She and her associates offer a wide variety of specialized pediatric programs in addition to traditional speech and language services. Each SPEECH PATHways therapist holds a master's degree and a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; each is also trained or certified in various specialty treatments and techniques. SPEECH PATHways strives to be on the cutting edge of pediatric intervention. Because of the specialty services offered, clients travel from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the Washington, DC, area to the SPEECH PATHways clinic.

About Tomorrow's Treasures

Tomorrow's Treasures is the studio of local artist and art teacher, Carla Gray. Carla gives generously of her time and talents and opens her studio to make the ART SPEAKS program a success for each child at his or her level of development.

Ten Lessons the Arts Teach

by Elliot Eisner

1. The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships. Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.
2. The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.
3. The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
4. The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity. Learning in the arts requires the ability and a willingness to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.
5. The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor number exhaust what we can know. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.
6. The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects. The arts traffic in subtleties.
7. The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which images become real.
8. The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.
9. The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.
10. The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.

SOURCE: Eisner, E. (2002). *The Arts and the Creation of Mind*, In Chapter 4, *What the Arts Teach and How It Shows*. (pp. 70-92). Yale University Press. Available from NAEA Publications.