

RIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents:

As the speech and language pathologist serving your child's school, I want to share some information with you about communication disorders. I also would like to tell you what we can do –together- if your child needs help with speech and language development.

The ability to communicate is perhaps the most important skill your child will acquire. Communication skills permit children to make sense to their world, to express themselves, and to learn. Because these skills are central to success in school, early identification of a problem is crucial. Once a child with a communication disorder is identified, the appropriate treatment and the involvement of parents often make the difference between failure or frustration in school and a successful school experience.

Speech disorders include problems with making sounds correctly, voice quality, and stuttering.

Language disorders include difficulty in understanding or using language. For example, language disorders may include problems with understanding/identifying certain classes of words, understanding/giving directions, answering/asking questions, or understanding/using correct grammar. Language disorders also can be the inability to use appropriate social language or to convey ideas to others.

Usually, children do not "outgrow" communication disorders. That's why early identification and treatment are so important. In fact, early treatment can help prevent communication disorders from turning into lifelong handicaps. My responsibilities include diagnosing a communication disorder and evaluating its nature and extent. In addition, I provide treatment as necessary.

If you have any concerns about your child's communication skills, please contact me at school. I look forward to meeting you and working with you to help your child develop better communication skills.

Sincerely,
Sandy Kollross
Speech/Language Pathologist

Please return to Ridgeview Elementary School

____ Yes, I am concerned about my child's speech and language skills and I give consent for the speech/language pathologist to conduct a brief screening. My concerns are listed below:

Child's name

Grade/Teacher

Parent's Signature

Date