

NewsWorks

TherapyWorks Quarterly Newsletter



Working Wonders in Children's Lives

Fall 2011

Therapy in the Technology Age

by Breanna Taylor, MS, CCC-SLP

TherapyWorks has joined the technology revolution by implementing the iPad® in both speech therapy and occupational therapy sessions. The iPad provides a quick and motivating way to supplement therapy activities.

Many applications are available to address a variety of goals in therapy sessions. In addition, parents have the option to purchase recommended applications if they have iPods, iPhones, or iPads so children can carry over recommended activities at home.

Speech therapists can use the iPad to address articulation, language, and cognition. In addition, many applications can be used as augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). AAC can supplement or replace natural speech for children with severe communication or cognitive disorders. Occupational therapists can use the iPad to address fine motor skills, handwriting, sequencing, and cognition.

“Not only does the iPad provide cause and effect through visual and auditory input, but



Joshua Frias uses an iPad during his speech therapy session to work on following directions and prepare for a feeding session.

it is highly motivating for clients to work towards as a therapeutic reward within therapy sessions,” Amanda Thompson, OTR/L, occupational therapist at TherapyWorks, said. “Children can also practice visual motor skills through iWrite, a program that teaches proper letter formation.”

In addition, Thompson said iPad apps such as “Handy Manny” offer visual motor, visual memory, and visual perceptual skill development through coloring, puzzles, and “ISPY” games.

Although there are many applications to enhance therapy or homework activities, an iPad application cannot specifically teach interaction or play skills such as shared attention, engagement, shared social problem solving, representational play, or abstract thinking.

However, it can act as a motivator to address these skills. The iPad can be utilized as a tool to promote interaction with another adult or peer. Obstacles can be created to facilitate social problem solving. For instance, a child could play a favorite game with a peer to work on turn taking. There are many ways to implement the iPad in a fun, effective way without relying on the applications alone to teach a child.

iPad® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. TherapyWorks is an independent business and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc.”

Upcoming Events

DSAT Buddy Walk

Join the Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa on Sunday, October 16, for the Buddy Walk! The event will be held at Union Central Park, located at the 6th/7th grade center, near 62nd & Mingo. Bring the whole family to enjoy bouncy house, carnival games and more! Visit www.dsat.org for more information.

Smarts & Arts

Benefiting the Autism Center of Tulsa, this event includes an art show, silent auction, dinner and trivia game. Smarts & Arts takes place on Friday, Nov. 11; doors open at 5:30 p.m. Check out www.autismtulsa.org for more details.

Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

Mark your calendar for Nov. 18-19 for this annual conference held in Norman. Visit www.okautism.org for details.

Working Wonders

Diagnosed with Down syndrome, Jesus' speech-language development was delayed and communication with family and friends was difficult.

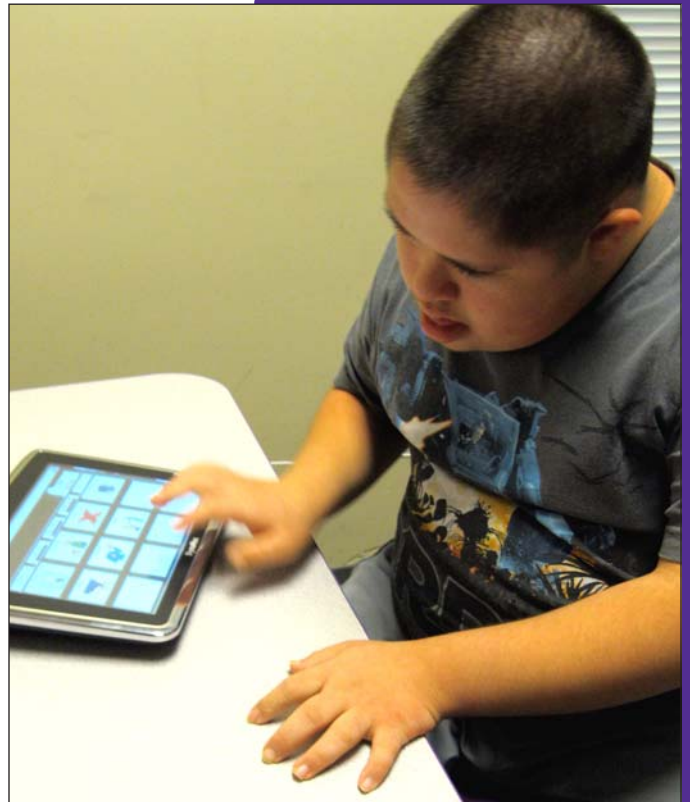
His speech therapists helped his family obtain an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device that enabled Jesus to point to a screen and have the device speak for him.

"He is able to communicate better with everyone and also able to express his desires, what he likes and what he doesn't," the Gonzalez family said. "With his speech device he is able to communicate. He lets us know what he wants at a certain time and place. It makes it easier to understand him and help him."

Sign language was not a good option for Jesus because with sign language, the other communication partner must know sign language as well.

"Sign language is not a universal language, which is why we chose this device for Jesus. He can use this and communicate with anyone," said his speech therapist, Kara Sexson, MS, CCC-SLP. "Jesus uses the device to request items of need and to comment. He initiates conversation with not just me, but everyone around him using his device."

Jesus, 13 years old, receives speech and occupational therapy at TherapyWorks.



Meet The TW Team

Jill Spurrell, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist
OT/PT School Therapy Manager

"I strive to provide quality care with a personal interest in the success of each student."

Specialties

- Handwriting and Keyboarding
- Visual Perception and Visual Motor
- Fine Motor Functioning
- Sensory Processing

Certifications/Memberships

- National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
- Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
- American OT Association member
- Oklahoma OT Association member

Education

- B.S. Occupational Therapy
- University of Kansas

Beyond TherapyWorks

Jill enjoys hiking, cooking, reading and praying. In her spare time, she also helps her husband with Christian pre-marriage and marriage instruction and hospital visits.



THERAPYWORKS

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Astrid Lowry, COTA
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Amanda Zarbano, PTA
Kerry Lichlyter, PTA

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ST School Manager
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Laura Diamond, CCC-SLP
Breanna Taylor, CCC-SLP
Sydney Page, CCC-SLP
Kara Sexson, CCC-SLP
Annie Imherr, CCC-SLP
DeeAnna Cook, CCC-SLP
Robyn Vanderveen, CCC-SLP
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