(The Speechie Show Ep.19)

Welcome to the Speechie Show! Being a speech language pathologist often means having too much work and not enough planning time. To beat the overwhelm, we’re bringing you the tricks and tools that will make your job a little bit easier.

**Carrie**: Hello everyone and welcome to the Speechie Show. We're trying this one more time. I'm Carrie Clark from speechandlanguagekids.com and I'm here today with Desiree from SLPTalk. How are you Desiree?

**Desiree**: I'm doing well, how are you Carrie?

**Carrie**: Doing’ alright. We are having some issues with our internet connectivity today and our brains. So hopefully this will continue to work. But we are here today on the Speechie Show to talk about what to do if you are having too many kindergarten referrals or just referrals in general and how you can implement some school wide activities and programs that are going to help improve communication across the board which is great for better hearing and speech month. Which is coming up right around the corner. So, if you are new to the show, I am Carrie Clark. I am your host. Each week we do the Speechie Show on Facebook Live and I have a guest come on and talk about 5 tips for something that they are passionate about. And we do different topics each week. It's a lot of fun and we're going to do some giveaways here in just a minute. So, hang tight if you are watching with us live. Or if you are watching the recording or listening to the recording on the podcast later, welcome and thank you for joining us today. Alright so Desiree let's get started with you telling us a little bit about you and what you are up to these days.

**Desiree**: Ok, well I am a school-based speech language pathologists. I am currently in Ohio and I have been practicing for 17 years. And I'm kind of passionate, not kind of, I am passionate about stepping outside of just your metaphorical speech room per se and really embedding yourself within the school community or whatever setting you are in and becoming a team member.

**Carrie**: Absolutely, that's great. Ok if you are watching with us live, go ahead and comment in... does your school have school wide programs like this where you are working on communication skills with students other than your IEP students. Give me a yes in the comments. And while their doing that, Desiree can you tell us why it is important for us to be thinking about these school wide types of approaches as opposed to just, I see my kids in the speech room?

**Desiree**: Oh gosh it's so multifaceted. One is that...some are obvious...is that you get to know the staff and the students more and you're not this enigma. You know what is speech or where is speech. You're not an enigma. And so, then I feel like from that you get a better positive response from the students. Of course, most of the students when you go are saying pick me pick me. But from the teachers as well from getting more appropriate referrals and then also understanding more of the skill of our practice and realizing that it is broader than they had anticipated.

**Carrie**: Absolutely, yeah. Alright we're getting some comments in here. Looks like a lot of people saying no that they are not doing these kinds of school wide programs. Lindsey says this is a great time for this, I've been trying to figure out what to do for May speech and language month. Yeah so, May is better hearing and speech month if you guys are not aware of that. And there's going to be all kinds of social media campaigns going on during that month. But this is a great thing to do to improve speech and language skills across the school and to increase awareness about our field and like to said our scope of practice. Who all can we help in those classrooms. Alright so we are going to share with you 5 tips today that you can use to help try to create some of these programs and create some of this awareness and become part of that school community and part of that team. So, the first one we are going to talk today about is using your resources. So, Desiree, what does that look like for you?

**Desiree**: Ok so for me, using your resources is essentially looking at all things outside our box and really collaborating with those teachers. Finding out what's going on in the classroom. Finding out what the need is as well and utilizing those. As far as, we'll talk about in a little bit to, is a language development zone in kindergarten. I do it along with our title one specialists. So, we are a title one school and to be completely honest the title one specialist approached me and said hey how would you like to have your hands on every kindergartner every other week, because we'll split the class. And I said absolutely. I work in a very low income school and 99% of our kids qualify for free and reduced lunch and almost a third of our population are English language learners. So, for me it capturing that and putting in that intervention in place is going to be much more productive for my time to kind of determine who truly has a distorter versus needs that exposure.

**Carrie**: Absolutely, yeah. And I think a big part of that like to said, talking to the teachers about what they need. Because if you come into the classroom and you said hey I've got this awesome new program, we're going to put it in your classroom and it's all this extra work for you. That's what the teachers hear. But if you say, ok what do you need help with. What are you struggling with when it comes to communication, how can I support you. I feel like you're going to get way better buy in and they'll be like oh this is an asset to me as opposed to just one more thing on my check list.

**Desiree**: Absolutely. And your resources don't have to lie just in your building either. It's in a community greeter program who had different members of the community come in and greet our kids in the morning and say hi and it worked on those soft social skills with the entire school population quite frankly. But it also brought people into our building to meet our kids and see how awesome they are and interact with them and it introduced people to the building who may not have been there otherwise in just a casual way. Who wouldn't want to say hi to kids in the morning as they are coming in and feeling like absolute rock stars because, if you could see them in Walmart and you would think that it's a celebrity sighting.

**Carrie**: Oh that's so cool I love that idea. What a fun one. Ok let’s see we have a couple more comments coming in. A couple people that have done a little bit of this did some whole class push in pull out. Great. So yeah there is a lot of different ways you can do this. We're going to talk about some today. If you have other ideas of ways that you've uses school wide programs, go ahead and type those in the comments so we can have a nice list of activities and programs going that we've done. Ok so first one use your resources, we've talked about that. The next tip we are going to share with you is looking for time within your day that you can maximize to do this. I know as speech language pathologists, we are all super busy. We don't have a lot of time and usually our caseloads are huge, but how can we work on working with the time that we already have?

**Desiree**: Right. So, for example the language development zone, like I said the majority of our kids to qualify for free and reduced lunch so all of our students eat breakfast at our building to is what that means. So, when they come in, as they come into school and they are eating breakfast for that first 20 minutes or so of their day. So that's a great time for me to pull kids. I'm not sure as to what they are going to get because there is kind of a window as to when the kids come into school that are still ok and they're not late. So, I'm not going to schedule a group at that time because I don't know if they're there yet and I'm certainly not going to take them away from breakfast. You can bring that along but you know how that goes too. So that time is kind of a time in my schedule that would work fantastic for this and then also with the title one specialist it worked for her in her time. And then it did have that room as far as if I did have an IEP meeting or an evaluation team meeting. My title one specialist has been phenomenal about you know understanding that hey I might not be there this morning but there are two of us which is nice. And the way we do it is in the hallway and so we have 5 kindergarten classrooms which works out perfectly for the numbers. Just mathematically it was perfect. And so half the class will come out one week and the other half comes out the following week. And we do it right there in the hallway. We set up some different centers. This is very play based which is great because then people walking by can see it. Your again are not within your little box.

**Carrie**: That's great. And so, you have language activities set up and you kind of guide the children through it?

**Desiree**: Yes. I saw when I started, this is my first year at this particular building, and when I started I noticed I had a lot of kids who were a little older that were having following direction goals. And really within the goal they didn't understand those basic concepts. They didn't have the basic concepts within it. And so, I was trying to figure out what could I do that's going to help those kids before they even get to me because it was so systemic all across the board. So that's when I kind of went in and we actually gave the basic concepts screener from smarty ears on my iPad. I gave a screener to every student which was phenomenal. It only took about five minutes per kid and they would do the screener as they were coming out and playing. So, I would just grab a kid here, grab a kid there. But I could take that data and determine which concepts the majority of the kids were having trouble with. 78% of the kids didn't understand the concept of beginning. So, I knew that was something that we had to work on.

**Carrie**: Yeah

**Desiree**: And that's so easy to imbed in play. What are we going to do in the beginning, or act out something and what happened in the beginning? So.

**Carrie**: Perfect. Alright I'm going to link to the smarty ears app. Id that the screener?

**Desiree**: Yes, basic concept skills screener.

**Carrie**: Ok

**Desiree**: And it prints out a beautiful report too so the data I could get for it for the teachers. And so now we are doing a post. We did pre-and the beginning of the year to compare.

**Carrie**: Oh cool. That's really cool. So, I'll link to that over on the show notes over on the [speechandlanguagekids.com](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/) blog. And when this goes up we'll do a little editing and it will come up in a week or two and we'll stick that link on there as well. Ok so we're talking about using your resources. We are talking about maximizing time that you are not able to use for other things right now. So, the next tip we are going to share is about digital portfolio tools. So, tell us about that and how you use those.

**Desiree**: Ok like I said with the, for example the basic skills concept screener, that generates a report that I can then...what I use is um it's another app, I have another app... hahaha.... but um and it's a free app and it's called see saw. And it's just like it sounds, see saw. And what it is, is a digital portfolio that you can create for the students. And what we did is our students in this regard for the language development zones are our teachers. So, I have each teacher listed as a separate student. What it allows me to do is while we are out there and we are playing or engaged in an activity and we're doing, working on a specific concept, the kids can talk about what they did. We take a quick video clip and it uploads to their digital portfolio. So, the teachers can see what's going on there. The kids love it. Even to be completely honest, if the teacher never watched that video clip, we tell a student, oh I want to show Mrs. So, and so. They have accountability and kids really love being on video. It might make us cringe but they love it.

**Carrie**: Hahaha, yes.

**Desiree**: Its cool to do that where you can pull it all together and it's great for administration to be able to see to because you can tap into that and you have that proof, well not proof but substance of what you are doing.

**Carrie**: Absolutely. Yeah well and if you have an activity and you realize hey this is really something that a lot of our kids need to work on, you can share that quick video with the teachers and then they can start implementing things like that in the classroom as well.

**Desiree**: Right. And you know sometimes it's those ah ha moments that a kid has that's like, oh my gosh look what they did. And you can capture that. And you don't have to do video, you can snap pictures of what they are doing as well.

**Carrie**: Very cool. Awesome. Alright Heather says she does whole class social skill lessons that have her students with autism. That's another great way to get some program school wide approaches to teaching those social skills because usually those peers can support those children with autism as well in the classroom. Alright, Lauren is having internet problems. We were too. I feel ya, ahhahha. Ok the next tip we are going to talk about....and don't forget to stay tuned for the giveaways. We're doing giveaways in just a couple minutes. So, if you are on live with us right now we're going to do those in just a sec. But the next one is stepping outside your comfort zone. So, what does it look like when it comes to these school wide programs?

**Desiree**: Well essentially don't be afraid to try something. There are so many programs that I don't do every single one, every single year because it's just not feasible. But don't be afraid to step out and try something. Like I said I tried this this year and it worked great. The community greeter program worked phenomenal. This past or a few weeks ago I should say, my son's school was having a career day and I happen to be on spring break that week and they asked me to come in and be one of the speakers on speech pathology. And I thought what can I do and so I created this escape the speech room theme for them to all conquer for them to learn our profession. But don't be afraid to just try something. You know honestly, I think that when you grow the most, at least I do. It's when you start to step out of that comfort zone and really challenge yourself. Students need to challenge themselves every day and I think it says something when we continue to challenge ourselves as well. And just continue that evolving world because it is. The speech pathologist that I was 17 years ago and the speech pathologist that I am now are very different. For one I wouldn't be doing a video and I would be hand writing my IEP's.

**Carrie**: Hahahaha. Yeah and there's tons of resources out there of other people who are doing things that you want to be doing so look for the people who have already done it and written blog posts or Teachers Pay Teachers products and use what’s there. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. But like you said if you step outside your comfort zone, you may find something that works so wonderfully that you don't know how you lived without before.

**Desiree**: Absolutely.

**Carrie**: Alright, perfect. Haha Simon says goodnight from Spain. Ah goodnight. It's afternoon where I am ahahahaha. Alright so we have one more tip to share with you and then we are going to go onto the giveaways and the resources. So, last tip is using data. How do we use data with this kind of a program?

**Desiree**: Ok well as I mentioned and I kind of keep going to that language development zone, just cause it kind of aligns with that. But the data like I said I spoke of two of the basic concept skills with see saw. So, about half way through the I kind of then pulled out, well let me make this an articulation station to go along with that too. But I don't know if you can see but I kind of had it propped up behind me. So, I took the, and I have one at school, I took the mirror out of my daughter’s room for today, so don't mind if the pictures are a little wonky.

**Carrie**: Can you hold it right up to your screen. I don't know if they can see it.

**Desiree**: Let's see. Let me try to hold it in front of me. Can you guys see better now.

**Carrie**: Yeah, so there's pictures of speech sounds with mouth shapes all along the top here.

**Desiree**: Whoops, sorry.

**Carrie**: And there they go...hahahaha.

**Desiree**: I just taped it loosely since it was my daughters mirror.

**Carrie**: Yeah, hahahaha

**Desiree**: But you just get ah...here let me go this way so you guys can see. And the sound just go this way from the front to the back of the mouth. I've used it in my own therapy room for the last several years and the kids love it. I don't quite understand why they love it as much as they do, but the really do. And so, they can just go from the front to the back of their mouth which is fantastic for those kids who are working on even like introducing that developmental R which they don't necessarily have to have by kindergarten. But when I found that by introducing it in a way that they were not targeting it as much as far as ...especially if you can see in the picture, I don't know if it's close enough...there is a little picture of my dog Zoe as far as getting them when they get to R's then the "ruff" and then rrrr. So, kind of getting them to break that learning pattern so they are not really thinking of it as a speech sound per say when they do that, has made a huge difference. So, the kids just kind of go through that and then the data in the what I do in the hallway. I just created a simple google form. And so, I'm thankful that I have a s speech graduate intern this semester as well. So, what she does when she comes down...she's only there a few days a week, but when she comes down to the language development zone she will take the iPad and go through the google form and we just check. We have the kids type in their name and then check as they go across the sounds as far as which letter sound recognition they have and that also gives you that ability to prompt them. And it's the teachers love that data too. I just give them access to that form and it helps them know what their students need. And like I said the kids love it. It's just a really high interest one. I let them wave a little magic wand when they are done and they really love it. But it keeps that data again that is really seamless into what you are doing. It's not tracking tallies or things of that nature per se. But it can say hey this is where they were and this is where they are now. Look at this growth. And I'm not presumptuous enough to think that the basic concepts that they're all getting from this program. Obviously, they have phenomenal kindergarten teachers and they are getting that in the classroom as well. But it helps see that growth because you have those kids that you know maybe are still really struggling but you can at least see that they really have grown. But maybe they haven't' grown as much as their peers. It's again another data point.

**Carrie**: Absolutely, yeah that's wonderful. So, you were saying you have your speech therapy student go down and do that. Did you say with a google document? Was that what it was?

**Desiree**: Yes. I just created, sorry, well I created a google form that has the different sounds and we just click as they are able to identify it and then it generated into an excel document so that we can see what sounds they have and their student name is. It's just little check boxes and is super quick and super easy to do at the same time.

**Carrie**: Perfect. Ok have you created that as like a Teachers Pay Teachers or anything that people could get from you?

**Desiree**: No but I can very easily add it.

**Carrie**: Yeah you should do that. Hahahaha.

**Desiree**: And the articulation mirror. You know how those things just kind of evolve as you go so. I can certainly add that on it's no trouble.

**Carrie**: Yeah so look for that in the future. The [SLPTalk Teachers Pay Teachers store](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Slptalk-With-Desiree). And then are the mouth pictures for the mirror, are those in your Teachers Pay Teachers store?

**Desiree**: Yes. Those are actually articulation mirror is what it's called. But yep absolutely they are there.

**Carrie**: Alright perfect, I'll pull the link on that one too. Or if you want it now you can go over to [teacherspayteachers.com](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/). Is it just SLPTalk? Is that the name of your store?

**Desiree**: [SLPTalk with Desiree](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Slptalk-With-Desiree), yep.

**Carrie**: There you go. [SLPTalk with Desiree](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Slptalk-With-Desiree). Alright perfect. Ok now so now we are going to move on. We're going to do some resources and some giveaways. We've already talked about some really fun resources. We've talked about smarty ears app. The seesaw app for digital portfolio. We've talked about the articulation mirror pictures on Teachers Pay Teachers and let's see. Did you have anything else that you wanted to add on that?

**Desiree**: Did you have the escape the speech room. I figured since we are doing all that. And just a way to pay it forward to all of us, give us a better gift for speech and hearing month. We're usually giving out everything to everyone else, so this is for you guys as well.

**Carrie**: Yeah, hahahaha.

**Desiree**: So I do have that. If you go to my website which is [slptalkwithdesiree.com](http://www.slptalkwithdesiree.com/), that's part of my newsletter. You'll get that whole document for free. It's over 65 pages so it's a nice one.

**Carrie**: Nice, perfect. We got all kinds of resources for you guys today. This is great. Ok so we are going to do a giveaway. What are you giving away today?

**Desiree**: Today I was going to give away a copy of the articulation mirror.

**Carrie**: Perfect! Excellent. We are going to give away one copy of that and we are also going to give away two free months in The Speech Therapy Solution, which is my membership program for speech language pathologists. We have training videos. A monthly webinar. Materials you can print out and go. I give you some help with your planning. Set you up with an SLP survival kit. All kinds of fun stuff. So, you can head over to [speecheandlanguagekid.com/join](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/) if you want to check out that. But we are giving away 2 free months today to the second person to answer my question right now. The first person to answer is going to get the articulation mirror set. So here we go, are you guys ready? This is according to the NIDCD. So, of children who have communication disorders, who are more likely to actually get services, boys or girls? We're doing some trivia today. Usually I do a no brainer, but we are doing trivia. So, the first two people to be correct are the ones who win.

**Desiree**: Hahahahah

**Carrie**: Hahahaha. Well see here. Alright Heather Kelly McCay says boys. Heather, you are correct. And Lauren Nichole also says boys. Yes, ok so 59% of boys with communication disorders get services. Only 47% of girls with communication disorders get services. I thought that was interesting.

**Desiree**: Does it say why? Do you think, I wonder if it was behaviorally? If you noticed it more. If was more into behaviors.

**Carrie**: Yeah that's kind of what I was wondering. It seems like it probably becomes more of an issue. Like girls can compensate more. I don't know is that sexist. Hahahaha

**Desiree**: No, they are maybe a little bit more passive with it.

**Carrie**: Yeah absolutely. So anyway, that was kind of fun. Lindsey thinks behavioral too. Ok so Heather Kelly McCay, you are the winner of the articulation mirrors. How do you want her to contact you?

**Desiree**: Well what works best for you? She can email me.

**Carrie**: Ok what's your email address?

**Desiree**: It's Desiree, oh gosh I better spell that...desiree.slptalk@gmail.com.

**Carrie**: Perfect so Heather you can contact there and Lauren Nichole you won the two free months in my membership. You can email me at carrie@speechandlanguagekids.com and my assistant Kenna will get you set up. I think, op nope, Julie said girls. Everyone else is saying boys. Hahahaha. Alright perfect. Well I hope that that helped you guys today. Get your head around some ideas of how you can be incorporating these communication things into your whole school. Hopefully this helps you out with better hearing and speech month. You can get some of those things started. Share a lot of good resources to get you going as well. And thank you Desiree so much for joining us today and sharing all those tips.

**Desiree**: Thanks for having me! I had a great time.

**Carrie**: Absolutely. And where can people find more about you?

**Desiree**: Ok I'd say the best place would probably be my website which is [slptalkwithdesiree.com](http://www.slptalkwithdesiree.com/) and from there you can find my Instagram, Facebook, [Teachers Pay Teachers](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Slptalk-With-Desiree). They all link from there. That's probably the easiest landing spot for that.

**Carrie**: Perfect. Yeah that's your hub. Alright perfect. And don't forget to head over to [speechandlanguagekids.com](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/) and see more of the Speechie Show. You can also find out information about our eBooks and the membership program The Speech Therapy Solution. Join us next week, we have Susan Berkowitz coming on. She going to talk about AAC. So, join us next Monday afternoon on Facebook live for that. Alright thank you all and have a wonderful day. Bye.

Thank you for joining us today on The Speech Show. We hope today’s tips have helped you feel a little less stressed and a little more confident about your work. If you’re looking for more stress busters and confidence boosters, we’d love to have you join us in The Speech Therapy Solution, where you’ll get access to a huge library of premium training videos and another library of print and go therapy materials. You can also get help with your tough cases by Carrie on the weekly Q&A calls, or by posting in the exclusive Facebook group. Plus, group members can join us for a monthly webinar that can be used for a continuing education credit. Head on over to [SpeechandLanguageKids.com/join](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/become-a-member/) to check out all the amazing benefits of the speech therapy solution membership. Bye for now.