



ASPIRE NEWS

Question of the month:
Do you aspire to grow?



June Updates

Aspire posts LIVE Facebook videos daily! Go to Aspire Speech & Learning Center's page to see what's going on at Aspire.

Aspire has become a member of Fresno Women's Chamber of Commerce!

Fast ForWord Success at Aspire!

We are so proud of our clients that have worked on Fast ForWord language and reading programs over the last couple months. Some have finished up to two levels and progressed in their understanding of language, sound, reading, and comprehension.

This program can be a lot of effort, but it makes such an incredible difference in our clients' learning.

Congratulations to all our clients putting in the work to become better communicators!

- The Aspire Team

Staff Spotlight of the Month

Desiree Torosian, AA
Client Relations Specialist



Desiree is a Client Relations Specialist at Aspire. She is outgoing, fun and great at her job. Desiree has a passion for working with kids. Before joining our team she worked with homeless and at risk youth through a non- profit organization where she was able to get certified in child development, gang prevention and a number of other subjects. During her spare time she loves to read, sing, and spend time with her family and fur babies. Desiree's life motto is "Together we can make a difference!" Desiree loves to make people smile and will do whatever it takes to lift someone's spirits. She is a great asset to our Aspire team.

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Congrats to our Fast ForWord clients!

Staff Spotlight

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Article by Patricia Looney-Burman: How I Became a Speech Pathologist

How to reach us

Why I Became a Speech Pathologist



When I was 11 years old and in the 6th grade, my family moved from Kansas to North Dakota. Shortly after beginning my new school, my teacher said that the “speech teacher” was going to talk with me for a few minutes. Okay. Now what?

It turns out that my classroom teacher had recognized that I had a very strong lateral lisp when I spoke...so strong that, in retrospect, I knew that I sounded like Sylvester the Cat talking! In Kansas, my address had been “660 East 6th Street, plus the name of the town (2 more “s” sounds, plus “Kansas,” with even 2 more!). With an address like that, why hadn’t my lisp been identified before??? Well, even if it had, as far as I know, my small school didn’t have any SLPs and the lisp went unidentified. Even my parents didn’t recognize it for what it was!

So, I spent 1½ school years, twice a week with a very nice and very good SLP named Mr. Bitz (Ha! Another “Sylvester the Cat” word). I enjoyed the sessions. I worked hard—and it was hard to change the way I had been pronouncing the “s” and “z” sounds, which occur so often!

With continued therapy and support from Mr. Bitz, the next semester I conquered Sylvester the Cat and eventually mastered my “new sound.” When my family moved to North Dakota, I was blessed with an address of “982 4th Avenue West”—only 1 “s”—and a town with only 1 “s” in its name...and the state didn’t have an “s” to be seen or said or heard!

Although I majored in psychology in college, my path in graduate school followed that for a speech-language pathologist. I knew what it was like to have a speech problem. I knew what many children had been through. I knew how it felt to succeed—and I wanted to share all this with others. ...and I did.

Patricia Looney-Burman
Speech Language Pathologist
MA, MPH, CCC-SLP