

Speech and Language  
Therapy

Occupational  
Exercises

Early Intervention

Oral Motor Therapy

## What's New

- August Intensive Session Announced
- Better Speech Hearing Month Celebrated by Release
- Sign up for Specialised Classes
- HSE Update

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# Release

## Communication Intervention



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May 2006

### Two Outstanding Release Students get ready for Ireland Special Olympics!



**Jamie Mathews and Paul Ferris gear up for Ireland Special Olympics in Belfast!!!**

In the summer of 2006, Belfast will play host to the Special Olympics Ireland Games. Athletes from all over Ireland will arrive in Belfast to participate in the Games taking place from the 21st to the 25th of June across various sporting venues in County Antrim.

Release is very proud of two of our OUTSTANDING Special Olympians, Jamie Mathews and Paul Ferris.

#### About Our Olympians

Jamie Matthews is 14 years old. He attends St. Catherine's Special National School and has been swimming since he was only 2 1/2 years old in the Early Development Centre. Jamie is most recently training hard for the Ireland Games Special Olympics. Jamie loves it!!!

My name is Paul Ferris and I am 15 years old. I go to St. Raphael's school in Celbridge. I am looking forward to pony riding in the Special Olympics in Belfast next June. I love to swim, play basketball and football. At home, I play my computer and love listening to music. I am a Manchester United fan and hope to go and see them play in Old Trafford someday.

Let's show our Olympians how much we support them by making them cards to wish them good luck.

Please send the cards to Special Olympians, c/o Release, St Mary's Secondary School, Haddington Rd., Dublin 4.

**Spring / Summer  
Session Break will  
be from  
25 June – 4 July.**

**It's kind of  
fun to do the  
impossible.**  
– Walt Disney

Following on the great progress made in August of 2005, we will once again be holding a three-week intensive session.

### August Intensive Sessions

In the August Intensive Session you and your child come to Release for two days per week. A skill is taught on day one, and re-emphasized on day two.

Participants will receive six hours of therapy in only three weeks.

As always, we look to the parents to see what classes or skills they want their child to focus on. Your ideas will be incorporated into the entire session.

We are taking names for the August session today.

**We will consider applications for a special discount where two or more parents join together.**

#### Email

[taracunningham@release.ie](mailto:taracunningham@release.ie)

**or phone Tara on 087.247.3486 if you have a friend thinking of signing up!**



## May is Better Hearing & Speech Month

### Would you and your friends like to learn a skill?

For only €35 per person, groups of ten can avail of the below classes.

**Oral Motor Exercises** - Parents will practice various Oral Motor exercises for the tongue, lips, teeth, and jaw as well as breath support ideas

**Articulation** - Parents will learn about different techniques for improving their child's articulation. Techniques can be used for various sounds.

**Phonology** - Parents will learn about different techniques for improving their child's intelligibility through phonology therapy techniques. Phonemic Awareness skills will also be addressed.

**Folder Games** - Parents will learn what a folder game is and how they can be used. Participants will learn how to make folder games and will come out of the class with at least one folder game that they made.

**Categories** - Parents will learn techniques for teaching category knowledge to their child.

**Social Stories** - Parents will learn what a social story is and how they can be used in daily life to improve social skills. Parents will have the opportunity to create a social story for their child.

**Finished, Turn Taking, Inside / Outside Voices** - Parents will learn techniques to help their child with various social skills including the concepts of being finished, using appropriate loudness levels, waiting and turn taking.

**WH Questions and Following Directions** - Parents will learn techniques for teaching WH questions and following direction skills to their child.

**Boardmaker** - Parents will learn how to use Boardmaker and its benefits.

Book your private group session today!

Release Communication Intervention is celebrating Better Hearing and Speech Month this May to raise public awareness of speech and language disorders that affects 1 in 10 families in Ireland.

To celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month, **Release will be offering FREE language and speech screening tests every Tuesday for the month of May for children aged 0 – 16 years.**

Speech and language disorders can take many forms and can limit academic achievement, social adjustment, and career advancement. An individual may be born with a speech or language disorder, or it may be caused by accidental injury or illness.

"Fortunately, most people with speech and language problems

can be helped," said **Jennifer Wetter, MS, CCC-SLP, Director of Speech and Language Therapy at Release Communication Intervention.** "Even if the problem cannot be eliminated, we can teach people with speech and language problems strategies to help them cope. A speech-language therapist can help children with disabilities to maximize their potential."

Release Communication Intervention teaches caregivers, teachers, special needs assistants and children aged 0 - 16 techniques from speech and language therapy and occupational exercises, to early intervention and oral motor therapy.

To set up your screening test, call 01.667.8084, or email [info@release.ie](mailto:info@release.ie).

*"We can teach people with speech and language problems strategies to help them cope"*

**Jennifer Wetter, MS, CCC-SLP**

- Over 160 children
- Over 1600 hours of speech and language therapy delivered
- Consistent parent and family focused therapy
- Play-based
- Low-cost
- As Pat Kenny said, government support for Release really is a "no brainer!"

## Jenny's Picks of the Month

**Book of the Month:** I Have Feelings, Too! A by Joan Green, Greenhouse Pub. An interactive reading book of emotions meant for use by teens and adults. This book can be purchased through Downsed: [www.downsed.org](http://www.downsed.org)

**Websites of the Month:** [www.speakingofspeech.com](http://www.speakingofspeech.com) A website for speech therapists to share the materials they make. All the materials are printable right off the website.

## HSE Update

It has been an extremely busy time for Release, as three very important meetings with the HSE will be taking place in the month of May.

On 17 May, Liam O'Callahan, the Local Health Manager for the Dublin Mid / Leinster Region will be meeting Tara Cunningham as per Minister Brian Cowen's request. The meeting was arranged "regarding the provision of funding for a pilot study in respect of a programme to include parents in the teaching of Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Exercises, Oral Motor Therapy and Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities".

Followed by a similar meeting with Director of Disabilities Violett Harford, HSE-Northwestern Area on 23 May.

Finally, and most importantly, on 24 May, James O'Grady, National Manager Disability Services has set up a meeting to visit our school, evaluate a class and discuss Release in the context of how the HSE plans to deal with the Disabilities Act and People with Special Educational Needs Act.

Keep writing to your Ministers! Let's keep the pressure on!

**Release is a Communication Intervention programme, encompassing Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Exercises, Oral Motor Therapy and Early Intervention, designed to teach parents the skills they need to enhance their child's communication skills. The programme is taught in a group format, thereby increasing the numbers of people helped, while starting a peer-to-peer network.**