LIU/Post Ladge Speech and Hearing Center 516 299-2437

Pediatric Speech, Language and Feeding Intervention Program

The Ladge Speech and Hearing Center is dedicated to providing assistance to families with young children that have speech, language or feeding challenges. We offer targeted pediatric intervention through small caregiver and child play groups, as well as individual therapy. Comprehensive pediatric evaluations of speech, language, and feeding skills are also available.

The Chat Pack Language Skills Enrichment Group is a small, thematic play group that includes the child's family and loved ones in speech and language learning. We believe that children are most successful in learning new skills when they have the ready support of their caregivers. This group is designed for children from 16 months to 5 years of age who would benefit from improved verbal communication skills, socialization skills, and listening skills. This early childhood learning program includes independent play time, group discovery time, circle time, gross motor play, and art time. Children are encouraged to build successful friendships, while exploring a safe and nurturing environment designed to maximize their learning potential.

- 1. Individual goals, strategies, and activities for each child are developed with the child's family.
- 2. Hands on guidance from a supervising licensed speech/ language pathologist is available during every visit.
- 3. We believe in supporting every child's growth by offering to coordinate care with Early Intervention, school teachers, daycare providers, and medical professionals at families' request.

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The Munchie Bunch Feeding Skills Enrichment Group offers a positive learning environment for children from 16 months to five years of age with suspected or diagnosed feeding delays or disorders. We believe that learning occurs more rapidly in an atmosphere of playfulness and fun. This small, thematic, play-based group gently encourages and supports children during their sensory exploration of food. Using carefully selected art, music, play activities and storybooks, the supervising speech/language pathologist will enhance children's opportunities to learn about new foods and nutrition. We motivate children to expand their food repertoire at their own pace. The goals of the program are to:

- 1. Increase children's readiness to experiment with new tastes, temperatures and textures to ultimately expand children's dietary repertoires
- 2. Increase parents' nutritional knowledge to enable them to make informed decisions about appropriate meal time choices for their children
- 3. Improve the understanding of sensory, developmental, and other non-developmental issues that may impede a child's natural curiosity about food

Individual evaluations and intervention are also available to assess and specifically target speech, language, and/or feeding skills in young children.

Services are available during day and evening hours.

All services are supervised by New York State licensed and ASHA certified speech/language pathologists and graduate clinicians in our well-respected Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at LIU Post.

If you have any questions please call Dr. Joyce Rubenstein at (516) 299-2437 or e-mail her at irubenst@liu.edu