



# SOUTHWEST REHABILITATION

## Upcoming Events:

First Friday Wine Walk  
March 1

Didgeridoo Club  
Thursdays @ 3:30

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month!

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## COMING SOON:

### Summer Reading Camp

Pre- K through 5<sup>th</sup> Graders can improve or maintain reading skills over summer break! Skills include phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading fluency incorporating speech, language and literacy instruction.



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## Traumatic Brain Injury

While some patients may be verbally communicating well during their recovery, the lasting cognitive effects can be damaging to a person's ability to return to their former standard of living.

**Communication problems that occur** following a TBI can include:

- Inability to take turns in conversation
- Inability to maintain one topic
- Inappropriate tone of voice
- Inability to interpret facial expressions or body language

Speech therapists address pragmatics through role playing, organizing daily tasks and schedules and practicing skills at locations around the community. We integrate patient goals with therapy targets including bringing family members into therapy sessions for education and practice of new skills.

**Cognitive problems that occur** following a TBI can include:

- Inability to concentrate
- Reduced processing speech
- Memory deficits
- Executive function impairments



*At Southwest Rehabilitation we integrate research based therapy programs with functional therapy activities to promote new learning in socially appropriate scenarios.*

## Pediatric Speech Therapy Services

Southwest Rehabilitation is a provider of a wide variety of pediatric therapy services addressing medical needs, communication needs, and social needs of children in our community.

Additionally, children benefit from articulation, language and pragmatic/ social skills therapy to support growth and development both academically and in social contexts.

keep the child engaged and learning for the duration of each sessions.

**We offer support for children with complex medical needs** including completing modified barium swallow studies, videostroboscopic voice evaluations, and evaluation for use of an augmentative communication system.

**Pediatric therapy sessions are tailored to meet the unique needs of the child** and include play based therapy, use of structured, research based programs, and the integration of technology such as iPads into the therapy session in order to

**We welcome family participation in sessions often including parents and siblings in therapy activities** and offer education to parents for families to practice and learn in the home environment as well as during their therapy sessions with the clinicians.

## iMAZING: The iPad as a gateway to patient independence

**Note Taking**

**Schedule Tracking**

**Speech/Swallow Training**

**Text to Speech Software**

The increasing availability and shrinking costs of prior generations of iPads has allowed many of our patients to access a new form of support. Whether it is the use of simple, standard apps such as calendar and notepad to allow patients to document and track important information; or the use of specialized augmentative communication programs to allow the iPad to speak when the patient cannot, each device can be individually tailored to meet patient needs.



Southwest Rehabilitation has included use of the iPad in our therapy materials and the patient response has been remarkable. We are able to show patient's real time images of swallow function allowing new access to understanding the aspects of their swallowing that they cannot see. Anatomy apps allow us to show patients images of the vocal chords and explain how learned strategies support improved function of their speech mechanism. Language apps including naming, reading, spelling and comprehension allow patients targeted repetition and practice of basic skills once they leave the therapy office.

Technology has become a way of life for both the younger and older generations and finding new and exciting ways to integrate technology into therapy sessions continues to motivate our patients while supporting their functional independence in our community. Ask one of our speech therapists how we can integrate technology into your plan of care to meet patient needs!

## Cognitive Deficits & Right Hemisphere Brain Damage

Whether from a stroke, an infection, or traumatic brain injury, damage to the right hemisphere of the brain can cause a variety of cognitive communication problems. Many patients experience symptoms with memory, judgment, or reasoning among others.

These symptoms, coupled with potential other health problems, can make it difficult for patients to functionally participate in everyday environments.



**Common RHD patient symptoms include difficulty with:**

- **Attention**
- **Left-side neglect**
- **Memory**
- **Organization**
- **Problem solving**
- **Reasoning**
- **Pragmatics**

As a part of the rehabilitation team, speech language pathologists use a combination of structured therapy programs, implementation of compensatory strategies (such as memory books) and functional activities during therapy sessions to improve patient participation and independence with daily activities.

For more information about cognitive linguistic difficulties in adults contact Southwest Rehabilitation or visit the American Speech Language and Hearing Association at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org).



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