

TLC



Vol. XII, Issue 1

THINK – LISTEN – COMMUNICATE A SPEECH & LANGUAGE NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF ASHEVILLE SPEECH ASSOCIATES – (828) 285-8814

Q&A About Tongue-Tie

by Melodie Meadows
M.S., CCC-SLP

What exactly is tongue-tie?

Tongue-tie, referred to as ankyloglossia in the medical community, is a congenital condition affecting the lingual frenum (the fold of skin under the tongue). Ankyloglossia is characterized

by a thick, tight and/or short lingual frenum that results in limited movement of the tongue.

What are the common signs of tongue-tie?

One of the hallmark characteristics of tongue-tie is the heart-shaped or notched appearance of the

front portion of the tongue. Ask your child to stick out his tongue. If your child has a significant tongue-tie, you will notice a dimple at the front midline of the tongue. This occurs because the restricted lingual frenum has essentially anchored the tongue to the floor of the mouth and pulls the tongue inward when tongue protrusion is attempted. In

continued on page 2

What is Aphasia?

Aphasia results from damage to the brain because of stroke or injury. Aphasia means that the person's ability to communicate is impaired – not that the person is mentally incompetent.

Aphasia is difficulty expressing and/or understanding language due to brain damage. It is usually the result of damage to the left side of the brain. That is where language and

movement of the right side of the body are controlled.

The National Institute on Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke estimates that roughly 500,000 cases of aphasia result from stroke, 200,000 from head wounds, and 300,000 from infections, exposure to toxic materials, lead poisoning and other causes. There are nearly 1 million Americans suffering from aphasia. According to

NINCDS,

Aphasia may result in the loss of the ability to make sense of language, including the inability to understand printed words. It does not affect intelligence. Patients remain mentally alert even though their speech may be jumbled, fragmented, or totally incoherent and they may not be able to comprehend words spoken to

continued on page 2

AUDITORY-VERBAL THERAPY FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT RECIPIENTS

is now available through Asheville Speech Associates. Chet McKee, Speech Pathologist, holds the designation of Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist/Listening and Spoken Language Specialist from the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf. Chet has over 15 years experience with auditory-verbal therapy and we are proud to have him on staff!

**We provide
speech,
language,
and reading
therapy for
ALL ages.**

TONGUE-TIE continued from page 1

mild cases, the tongue tip is normal in appearance, but the lingual frenum is markedly short, tight and/or fibrous. In these cases, the most obvious characteristics are limited and/or atypical tongue movements. For example, a child with a mild tongue-tie may be able to stick out his tongue, but not lift his tongue.

From a more functional standpoint, children with ankyloglossia may also experience the following difficulties:

- Problems with nursing

- Feeding difficulties
- Poor oral and/or dental hygiene
- Drooling
- Tongue thrust swallow pattern
- Delayed and/or atypical speech development
- Reduced speech intelligibility
- Frustration

What should I do if I suspect my child has a tongue-tie?

As a parent myself, I encourage other parents to err on the side of being cautious

APHASIA continued from page 1

them. It is like being in a foreign land, unable to speak or understand a native tongue. The problem is not one of intelligence, but of communication. To patronize an aphasic patient or otherwise treat him as though he were mentally incompetent would

cause great anguish and slow his recovery.

Asheville Speech Associates provides speech and language therapy for individuals suffering from aphasia. This service is usually covered by Medicare.

Testimonials

“This was a wonderful experience! Our 2 1/2 year old daughter blossomed under the care and guidance of her speech therapist. I received the support and education I needed to reinforce her progress at home. Very caring and professional staff. We are so grateful for the top-notch services we received.”

– *Mother of a 2 1/2 year old who was not talking.*

“Our therapist went above and beyond in her work with my son. She was creative and innovative when challenging him to stay interested and to meet the goals.”

– *Mother of a speech and language delayed child.*

TLC, Think-Listen-Communicate, is a publication of **Asheville Speech Associates**, 1063 Haywood Rd., Asheville, NC 28806. copyright ©2011

**Call us today for an appointment.
(828) 285-8814**

where a child's health and development are concerned. If you suspect that your child has a tongue-tie, I would encourage you to speak to your child's physician and, if necessary, seek a referral to a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist for a comprehensive speech-language evaluation.

If your child does indeed have ankyloglossia, the physician and/or speech-language pathologist will most likely refer you to an otorhinolaryngologist, commonly referred to as an

ENT specialist, or perhaps even to a dentist or oral surgeon, for consultation as to whether your child would benefit from a simple outpatient procedure to release the lingual frenum. Following this surgery, speech-language therapy may be indicated.

Melodie Meadows is a speech-language pathologist with over twenty years of experience. She is licensed in the state of North Carolina and certified by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

MEET THE ASA STAFF

Janet Bennett, M.Ed., SLP, Owner

jbennett@ashevillespeech.com

Aisha Al-Majed, M.A., CCC-SLP

aalmajed@ashevillespeech.com

Michelle Duncan, M.S., SLP

mduncan@ashevillespeech.com

Sarah Henry, M.A., CCC-SLP

shenry@ashevillespeech.com

Kristen Kershaw, M.Ed., CCC-SLP

kkershaw@ashevillespeech.com

Chet McKee, M.S., CCC-SLP

cmckee@ashevillespeech.com

Melodie Meadows, M.S., CCC-SLP

mmeadows@ashevillespeech.com

Ann Marie Miller, M.A., CCC-SLP

amiller@ashevillespeech.com

Wilma Morris, Practice Manager

wilma@ashevillespeech.com

Christy Rice, M.S., CCC-SLP

crice@ashevillespeech.com

Shannon Rose, M.A., CCC-SLP

srose@ashevillespeech.com

Dawn Sanderson, M.A., CCC-SLP

dsanderson@ashevillespeech.com

Christi Moore Stansell, MSP, CF-SLP

cstansell@ashevillespeech.com

Julie Wood, M.A., CCC-SLP

jwood@ashevillespeech.com

Jennifer Young, M.A., CCC-SLP

jyoung@ashevillespeech.com

Gracie & Mazie, Office Kitties

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
OUR FIRM, VISIT US ONLINE AT
ASHEVILLESPEECH.COM