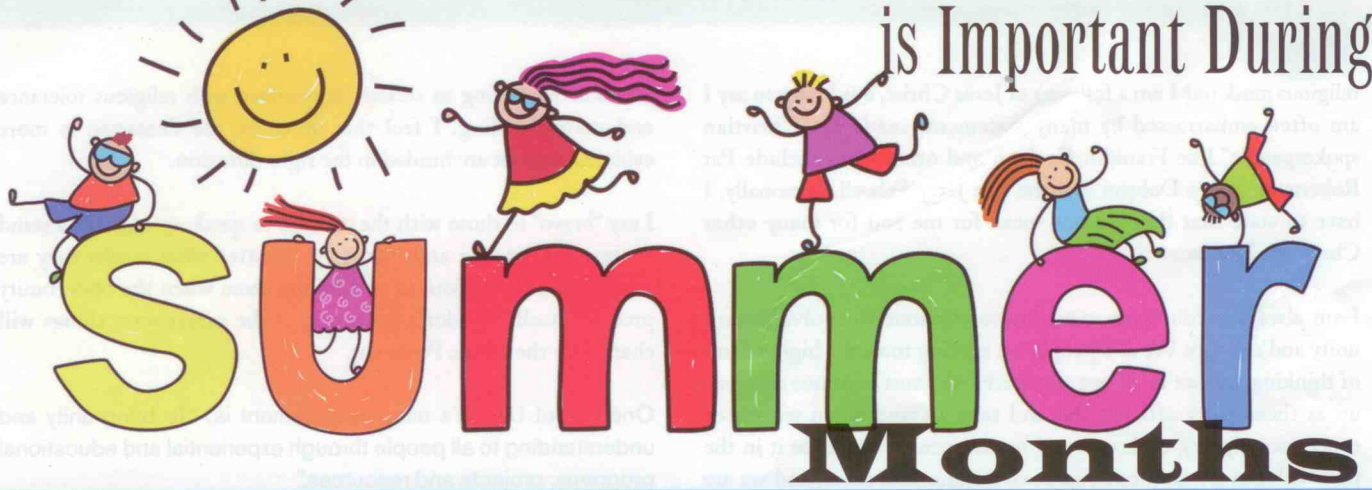


Speech Language Therapy is Important During



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It is not uncommon for parents to think they need to give their children a break from speech and language therapy during the summer. While it makes sense that sessions will be missed due to summer vacations, it does not make sense to skip the entire summer.

When children go to school they are taught a curriculum for their current grade level. It is the teacher's job to help keep your child at her age/grade level for the year the best way he can. Speech language therapy is provided because youngsters are performing at below-age levels. Speech and language pathologists need to accelerate the pace of learning to close the gap from where the child is and where skill levels should be. Schools usually have five days a week, six hours or so a day, to accomplish their goals. Speech therapy may only be offered a couple of hours a week or less.

Summer time is less structured due to the absence of school. This makes it a wonderful time to include a learning time that is less pressured. Parents will have more time to reinforce the goals of therapy because they don't have to deal with helping their children do their homework, study for tests, or do school projects. It is also at a time when the youngsters who are functioning at below age/grade levels can do more "catch up" because their classmates without needs are not in school.

There is a lot more flexibility in scheduling therapy when school is not in session. Many people will use this time to introduce therapy or to increase it. Those parents who choose to introduce speech therapy continue their regular schedule or possibly increase the number of sessions, and they find their children start the next school year more prepared and in a better learning mode.

Summer remediation keeps the student in the learning frame of mind. This may help prevent or limit regression that occurs during the summer break and it helps ease the transition back to school.