

CARING ABOUT COMMUNICATION!



May is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month! - Ideas for celebrating

Here are some great ideas to get you started!

Be creative... organize any special event which will promote awareness about speech, language and hearing in your community - then be sure to tell us about it so you can make this list next year. Good Luck & Have Fun!

- Hold a **career presentation at a local high school, college or university** to introduce our professions to students. Set up a CASLPA display or information booth in universities with S-LP and Audiology programs
- Hold an **essay contest, spelling bee or public speaking competition**, with a communication theme at local schools
- **Label all out-going mail** with a sticker or stamp announcing May is Speech and Hearing month
- Set up a **display booth at a local mall, library or school** offering information to community members about the importance of communication in their lives
- Remind everyone how we take the precious gift of communication for granted. **Organize a silence day**, where nobody is allowed to speak
- Sell hearing protection at a rock concert
- Offer a **free introductory sign language lesson** at the local library or community centre
- **Inform local radio and television stations** about your participation in Speech and Hearing Month and offer to be interviewed on air
- Display **May Month posters on bulletin boards** throughout your community - at work, local schools, shopping centres, community centres or churches
- Provide **May Month placemats/ tray liners** to local restaurants, fast food chains, hospitals, clinics or school cafeterias
- Ask your local library or bookstore to set up a **display for May Month featuring books** with speech, hearing and communication themes
- Give a baby basket to the mother of the first baby born on Mother's Day at your local hospital
- Offer an **information session** to members of the community who wish to find out more about speech, language and hearing
- Provide May Month children's **colouring/activity sheets** to doctors' offices, day care centres, schools
- Distribute buttons, magnets or other **promo items** to your employees, clients, etc.
- Take the opportunity to educate children and parents by organizing a **teddy bear health fair** where children can bring their stuffed animals to have hearing screenings and speech assessments
- Ask your Mayor or local MP and MPP to **publicly proclaim Speech and Hearing Month** at a Council or Cabinet meeting
- Supply your local pharmacies/grocery stores with **speech-language and hearing literature** and ask them to include it in the bag with each customer's purchase
- Organize a **television or radio interview** with an adult in your community living with a communication disorder
- Host an **interactive public forum** to discuss speech and hearing communication and awareness
- Set up a **telephone hotline centre or call-in radio show** with a panel of speech and hearing specialists to let the public "talk to the experts."
- Hold a communication **colouring or poster contest** in partnership with a local merchant who will display the entries
- Request a **meeting with your MP or provincial representative**. Use CASLPA's advocacy toolkit as a resource. The toolkit can be downloaded from the members only area of CASLPA's website www.caslpa.ca
- Send speech and hearing and May Month articles, public service ads and artwork to local media.
- Ask your local newspaper to **publish a Speech and Hearing Awareness fact of the week** for each week in May
- Ask local hotels, malls or other businesses to announce Speech & Hearing Month on their outdoor billboards
- Hold an **open house or health fair** where co-workers, clients, community members and the general public are invited to visit your facilities
- Offer **hearing screenings** and demonstrate equipment such as FM amplification systems.
- Set up a **noisy toys testing booth** at a clinic, hospital or other setting.
- Hold any type of special event - a **banquet** to recognize sponsors, volunteers or an outstanding citizen in your community who has a communication disorder.
- **Organize a fundraiser** - golf tournament, fashion show, etc. to benefit a particular speech, language or hearing disorder
- Find a well-known **public official or local celebrity** in your community who has a communication disorder and ask them to get involved in one of your events and speak out publicly in support of the issues
- Offer **information packages** with stickers and balloons to parents of all babies born in May - put them in your hospital waiting rooms, doctors' offices, etc
- Develop a **Teacher's Kit** containing activity sheets and fact sheets concerning childhood communication problems and deliver it to local schools. You may also want to include a letter which can be sent home to parents or ask if you can make a **presentation to the staff, teacher's association or PTA**
- Hold a **Speech and Hearing Trivia contest** (with prizes) in your local newspaper, on the radio or at an information booth.

More ideas available at www.caslpa.ca/english/resources/maymonth.asp