

# BILINGUISTICS

## BILINGUAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Hello to professionals working with CLIENT,

I am a speech language pathologist working with CLIENT. CLIENT has difficulty speaking and I wanted to take this opportunity to talk about how she communicates. Air passes between her mouth and her nose in the back of her throat without her ability to close the opening (velopharyngeal insufficiency, VPI). For most people, they close this opening while talking and open it to make nasal sounds (m, n, ng). CLIENT does not currently have this ability so much of what she says only includes vowels and is very short (1-2 syllables) in length. Basically, because air is escaping through her nose, she cannot easily create the pressure needed to make consonants, and cannot maintain the airflow to create long words or phrases. CLIENT will be scheduled to have surgery within the coming year.

Despite these difficulties, CLIENT is an effective communicator. She has learned many signs (more, dad, finished...), and gestures to indicate her wants and needs. She attempts to speak while communicating and should be encouraged to say words that you are learning, singing, etc. Formal testing showed that CLIENT understands well for her age and can identify objects by name, size, color, and number. She follows directions well, and answers “wh” questions by pointing and vocalizing.

As an educator, please discuss with CLIENT’s class about how she speaks if the topic comes up. CLIENT is currently working on sounds made with the lips (b,p,m) and vocabulary can be chosen with these sounds to give her a chance to participate. She is also working on putting the correct vowels in 2 and 3 syllable words (i-a-a for *jirafa*). CLIENT put together a book recently, “Todo acerca de mi,” which has information about

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her, her family, and her favorite things. Please ask to see this booklet to learn more about her and to share with her class.

I am working with CLIENT outside of school and hope to collaborate with and support professionals working with her. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or successes that you would like to share.

Best regards,