

SUCCESS! Learning Center

presents

THE SPOT

Headin' for **SUCCESS!**

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No. 30

Teaching Speech

Mark Gaare, SLC Elementary Teacher



Public speaking is often listed as the #2 most-common fear of people around the world. In fact, fear of speaking, or *Glossophobia*, is cited by most people as being more frightening than commitment, rejection, spiders, and even death itself!

Clear, concise, effective speaking is one of the hallmarks of leadership. Good speakers shine in high school and college, lead the way in industry and management, and help govern everything from local school districts to the federal government. Competent leaders are convincing speakers.

Like anything else, speaking well is a skill that needs to be learned and practiced. Speech is indeed one of the Language Arts Standards for California Public Schools, but many classrooms only allow students to give one or two speeches per year, often without any instruction or preparation by the teacher.

When speech techniques are introduced in a friendly, sympathetic environment, students advance quickly, learning poise, confidence, and communication skills that will benefit them lifelong and help them achieve their goals. Reports, announcements, toasts, instructions, prayers, and interviews hold no fear!

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Now Enrolling

After-School Session Begins September 7th

Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs ❖ 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Tues & Thurs Evenings ❖ 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The After-School Session begins Sept. 7th. Each class period runs for three hours, and students may attend two or more tutorials per week. Registration forms are available on our website or by calling the office (see below).

During the school year we concentrate especially on helping students understand their coursework, complete homework accurately, and prepare for tests. Additional enrichment activities, supplementary skills practice, and English tutoring are also available (see page 3).

Fees are paid every four weeks. The tuition for a student who attends two days per week (24 hours) is \$268, three days per week is \$332, and four days per week is \$396. A discount is available for families. Limited scholarships are available for those in financial need. Please see the Director for more information.

Success! Learning Center

a non-profit educational and tutoring center

Tutoring, test preparation, and homework assistance for students in grades 3-12

Director: Cliveden Chew Haas

Location: 355 Dixon Road, Milpitas

Phone: (408) 263-9754

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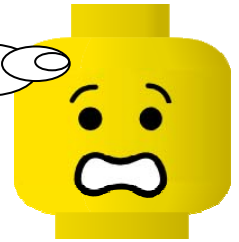
Website: www.successlearningcenter.org

Teaching Speech

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Speaking is an important part of our curricula at Success! Learning Center. Sensitivity to public speaking can be reduced or even eliminated at an early age, but it takes patience and practice. Our small class size and high teacher-to-student ratio make SLC a great environment to start making oral presentations. All students in the elementary classroom participate. After discussing manners and protocol, we begin by teaching the three most basic skills: **volume, speed, and eye contact.**

*Everyone is watching...
everyone is judging...
I have to read AND speak
AND somehow make this
interesting for the listeners?
HELP!!!*



At Success! Learning Center, our teachers first model the correct volume and speed for giving speeches. Then we assign students to be coaches for each other. Each “speech coach” is assigned a separate skill to watch for and report on. Speeches are then made by the students. The teacher stands at the front of the room with the student to help pronounce words, and to ease the feeling of isolation that a speaker may get. After each speech, we always give a reassuring round of applause to say “*Congratulations*” and “*Thank You*”. Then the speech coaches give their feedback about what they saw and heard. In this way, the basic speech skills become **formalized, highlighted, and assessed** just as the other language skills are.

After everyone has had several chances to hone their basic three skills, we introduce the final two skills: **gestures and exciting voice changes.** Gestures are movements that help support what the speaker is saying. Gestures are typically done with the hands, but can also be done with the feet, body, or head. Students even enjoy using props as visual aids! In order to free up the speaker’s hands, we’ve found that it is helpful for a teacher to hold the student’s paper for them. Gestures, when they are meaningful, truly help an audience to comprehend the speaker’s message. In fact, studies have shown that nonverbal communications such as gesturing can convey *more than half* of a message’s meaning.



Later, each student is allowed to pick their own personal speech coach who assists them when they are practicing their speeches. Speech coaches help their partners find and practice meaningful ways to add gestures and voice changes. **Changes in voice** also help speakers to keep their audience interested. Student speakers are encouraged to change the speed, volume, tone, or sound of their voices. Students can emphasize, impersonate, emote, and even yell out to get their message across.

Using these fun techniques, students can improve their speaking abilities in a matter of weeks. Success! Learning Center students learn what makes a speech good, and they get lots of practice in a friendly and safe environment. **This gives our students an edge and helps prepare them for any speaking situation that may arise, from presentations to training to debates to interviews.** Oh by the way, what is the #1 most-terrifying fear, you ask? For that answer, you’ll just need to fill in the following blank space! _____



Improving English Language Skills

Success! Learning Center offers English writing, grammar, vocabulary, and reading practice.

Lessons are adjusted to the individual student's needs and weaknesses.

Includes daily composition and grammar practice, pronunciation, and language effectiveness.

Strengthens speaking and listening skills; improves reading and writing skills.

Students may also work on study skills and note-taking exercises.

Suitable for ELD (English Language Development) and bi-lingual students.

PSAT at High Schools

Saturday, October 16, 2010

The PSAT (preliminary SAT) provides excellent practice for the SAT Reasoning test. It also gives 11th-grade students a chance to compete for National Merit scholarships.



important that sophomores not be discouraged by low scores—they will be compared against 11th-graders. Remember, this is a practice test—the “real” test is in 11th grade.

The PSAT is offered only once each year. Students register for and take the test at their high school. There is no online registration. Most high schools will offer the test this year on October 16th. Remember to register early!

Scores on the PSAT enable students to compare their performance on an admissions test with others applying to college.

We recommend that college-bound students take the PSAT in 10th grade in order to become more familiar with the types of questions and the skills necessary for the SAT. However, it's

Success! Learning Center has PSAT practice tests for those interested in a little extra preparation. You can also find practice materials online:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>

LEARNING CENTER STAFF

Cliveden Chew Haas, M.A., the Learning Center Director, is credentialed to teach academic high school subjects. Originally studying science as a pre-med major, she completed degrees in English Literature, with additional training in English as a Second Language and learning disabilities. Cliveden brings extensive experience in various areas of education and a contagious enthusiasm for learning.

Mark Gaare is a credentialed elementary teacher with experience in language arts, math, social studies, science, and other topics. Students enjoy his active and supportive teaching style. He runs the SLC Elementary Room with creativity and plenty of energy.

Our teaching aides are extremely successful college and high school students who are also skilled instructors. They enjoy sharing their talents and their knowledge.

