

Peer-iodicals from the Heart



Welcome!

What we've been up to!

Hello and welcome to our Summer 2018 edition. We hope that now that the weather has improved you have some nice plans for your summer!

With the kids out of school sometimes summer can be more of a strain on families, especially families with special needs. We know all kids like and work better in routines and that is why our Summer Camps are especially designed with the perfect balance of structure and freedom. Our two-day August specialty camps have been added so make sure you check them out.

In this edition, we will bring you up-to-date on all our news, including some recommended reading, a summer craft and a great article on the importance of Cursive Writing. Don't forget to like us on Facebook so you can keep up-to-date on what we are up to.

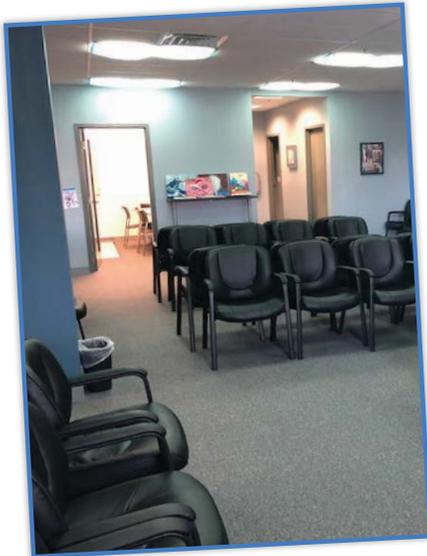
We hope you enjoy the read and Happy Summer!!



Linda Mary Lou

Left: Linda Murphy M.S., CCC-SLP, CEIS
Right: Mary Lou Gagnon OTR/L

What's happening this quarter?



- We have **expanded our office** again as we continue to grow. The new space provides our families with more reception space which includes a family kitchen and high-top work space. We will also be getting **new equipment** to convert the old reception area in to a fifth gym. We are really excited and happy to show you around!

- Pick up a copy of our **Summer Activity OT Calendar** in the office which includes lots of activities to do with the kids over the summer months.

- A few weeks ago, we had our annual **Summer Party** in Linda's backyard. It was a beautiful evening with great food and good friends. Thank you, Linda, Rob, Freddie and Desmond, for hosting the PPTFTH family.



- After a first career in horticulture, **Heidi Cope** returned to school in 2015 to obtain a graduate degree in communication sciences and disorders at the University of New Hampshire. She joined PPTFTH as a graduate student in January 2018. **Elizabeth Horan** is a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant who is currently earning her Masters of Science at Emerson College. She has experience with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Early Intervention, and receptive and expressive language deficits. She joined the team in May 2018.



- We were excited to run a **Lego Enrichment Program** at Bentley Academy in Salem this spring. This program was led by Sean Walsh and was well received! If your school is interested in holding one of these as part of their Fall or Spring enrichment programs please contact the office for further information.

- This summer we have two **international clients**, one from Luxembourg and the other from Africa, visiting our offices to learn to enhance their lives through our services. We welcome them and their families to Beverly!



- We have also had the opportunity to work with a comrade from **Bangalore, India** this past spring. Namrata Pai reached out to us to see if she could visit our offices and spend a week immersed in our programs and services so she could bring back some ideas and teachings to her practice, Magpie Speech & Language Services. We really enjoyed her visit, as well as having her son join some of our groups! We are glad to now have new friends in India.

- In June Linda presented at the **11th Annual Social Thinking Global Providers' Conference** in San Francisco. Her presentation was a case study on one of our groups here at PPTFTH and entitled "Looking at Three Special Boys Through a Different Lens." Linda had a great trip and was thrilled to share our work with a wider audience!

- We have added some **Specialty Camps** to our Summer Program for August. We have Drama, Lego, Food Explorers and Making Mistakes is Okay Camps available to keep everyone occupied and learning. Check out our website for more details <http://www.peerprojectstherapyfromtheheart.com/summer-camp.html>

KIDS ONLY ZONE!



Sea Glass Wind Chimes

We love this craft as it involves you spending time at the beach with your child/children searching for and collecting sea glass and then creating something special with it. We hope you make special memories making this craft.

What you will need

- Sea glass of different sizes and colors
- A piece of driftwood
- String
- Crafting wire
- Glue

How to make it

- Once you have collected enough sea glass you need to sort it in to sizes and colors and plan out the shape of your wind chime, for example larger pieces at top, and smaller at bottom.
- String the sea glass together by wrapping the crafting wire around each piece, you can secure it with glue if you feel it needs it.
- Once you have 3-4 strings you can attach these to the piece of driftwood.
- Use the string to make a hanger with the driftwood by tying knots at each end and securing with glue.
- Hang it in a well-lit window or doorway to see and hear your creation.



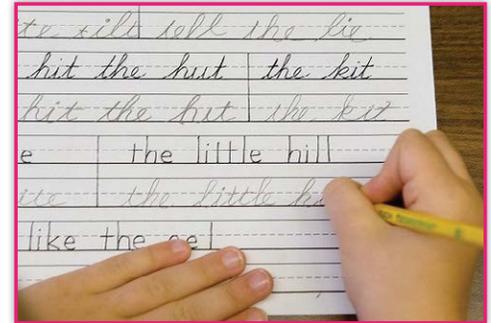
Recommended Reading

The **Big Life Journal** incorporates reading, expressive writing, and critical thinking while teaching Social and Emotional Learning and growth mindset skills. Activities help children recognize their ability to learn and motivates them to harness the power of their own mind. It can help children learn to embrace **challenges**, to **persevere**, and how to **grow** from mistakes and failures. Through stories, kids will get inspired by failures and successes of people like Elon Musk, J.K. Rowling, Walt Disney, and others.



Why Teach Cursive Writing? By Mary Lou Gagnon OTR/L

As a society, there is an ongoing debate about whether or not cursive writing needs to be taught in our schools today. Many of my friends who are teachers tell me that they do not have the time to teach cursive writing, and that cursive writing is a dying art. Others argue that cursive is no longer relevant because it isn't included in the Common Core Standards of many states. Although this is true, it is important to remember that these standards only include skills that are testable and measurable in the classroom; they do not address basic foundational skills, like handwriting or even spelling.



As students and teachers turn more and more to communication through tablets, phones, and computers, many feel that students should be focusing more on keyboarding skills than cursive writing. However, we should not lose sight of what handwriting, especially cursive writing, brings to the table in regards to educational skills, communication

skills, and overall development. To read the rest of this article visit our website. <http://www.peerprojectstherapyfromtheheart.com/blog>

5 Minutes with Deborah Jaskey

Deb is from South Carolina and has a BS in Therapeutic Recreation with a minor in Early Intervention from Clemson University. She worked for 7 years in Early Intervention which led her to do her Master's thesis at Sage Graduate School on the Family Centered Approach in Early Intervention, and the importance of parent follow through. She lives in Gloucester with her husband and 1 year old. Let's find out a little more about Deb.



- What is your favorite color?** Orange
- What is your favorite game?** Apples 2 Apples
- What is your favorite food?** Chocolate
- Where is the farthest place you've traveled?** California
- Where would you like to visit?** Finland
- What is your favorite TV show?** Parks & Rec
- What is your favorite movie?** The Fox and the Hound
- Interesting fact:** She grew up in South Carolina & Virginia.

5 Minutes with Sean Walsh

Sean joined PPTFTH in 2015 as a Clinic Support Specialist and Group Leader. While his degree is in Architectural Engineering, his passion is working with kids. He is trained in the DIR Floortime® model. Let's find out a little more about Sean.



- What is your favorite color?** Amber
- What is your favorite game?** Chess
- What is your favorite food?** BBQ
- Seitan & Watermelon
- Where is the farthest place you've traveled?** Puerto Rico and Bermuda
- Where would you like to visit?** Ride the Glacier Express through the Swiss Alps
- What is your favorite TV show?** Parks & Rec
- What is your favorite movie?** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows
- Interesting fact:** He's hiked Mt. Washington, NH, 10 times, the first time on his 6th Birthday.