

## **SPEECH AND LANGUAGE EVALUATION:**

NAME: Andre S  
DOE: 02/10/2007  
DOB: 09/10/1994  
CA: 14 years and 5 months

## **TESTS ADMINISTERED:**

Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation (Selected subtests)  
Oral Peripheral Exam  
In-depth Oral-motor Assessment  
Parent Interview/ Report  
Teacher Interview/Report  
Classroom Observation  
Informal Speech and Language tasks

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Andre, a 6 year and 5 month old female, also known as Ellie, is from a home in which English is spoken. He was referred for a Speech and Language re-evaluation by the school district, West Hempstead, prompted by articulation difficulties and the need for a complete diagnostic evaluation. There is no evidence of similar difficulties found in Andre's family history. Andre resides with his biological mother and father.

## **MEDICAL HISTORY**

Birth history includes an unremarkable full term vaginal delivery, with a birth weight of 5 lbs., 8 ozs.

## **CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS**

Andre was seen individually and observed in class for the current assessment, which was conducted in school. Andre presents a portrait of a child who is friendly and sociable. Alertness and appropriate responsiveness to social and environmental stimuli were exhibited; he was highly cooperative and demonstrated high motivation for task completion. Attention span appeared to be mildly reduced with some distractibility noted as tasks increased in complexity. An appropriate activity level was evidenced. Performance improved considerably when prompting and structure were provided by the examiner. Test taking strategies are characterized by trial and error. Play was primarily cooperative in nature, with symbolic use of toys and objects established. Creative play is emerging. Andre's ability to complete intermediate sorting/matching tasks has been established. Evaluative results are considered to be a reliable estimate of overall ability.

## **HEARING**

A hearing evaluation was conducted on 9/12/96 by Andre's school. Hearing was found to be unremarkable and within normal limits with standard audiometric testing; results are judged to be reliable.

## **PERIPHERAL SPEECH SYSTEM**

Most articulatory structures including lips, tongue, and velum appear to be unremarkable. Andre has a pronounced maxillary prognathism that is severely affecting his speech. Facial symmetry is observed at rest. Functions of the articulators feature moderate dysarthric involvement, with a slow, labored quality in volitional movement. Adequate velar elevation was achieved on /a/ phonation. Oral motor functions present appropriate labial retraction/ however volitional pucker was imprecise. Lingual elevation, depression and lateralization were found to be imprecise. Diadochokinetic abilities were inconsistently displayed as seen in the imprecise production of successive single sounds and polysyllabic words, characterized by omissions and phonological substitutions. Rapid sounds in sequence were not demonstrated. Andre is able to use a spout cup independently and spoon feed diced solids independently; occasional incidents of choking are reported. Adequate lip closure was displayed. Full rotary chewing appears to be emerging, and vertical munching patterns are established. Tongue position at rest was neutral with fair volitional control observed.

## **ARTICULATION/PHONOLOGY**

Intelligibility of speech production at the single word level is fair, with fair/poor intelligibility noted at the phrase level; such patterns appear to be secondary to dysarthric involvement of the articulators. Improved listener's comprehension was noted within known contexts. Results of formal and informal assessments indicate the following error patterns: distortions (d,t,k,g,sh,ch,l,r). Phonological production was not improved on stimulation.

Administration of selected subtests of the Goldman Fristoe Test of Articulation (GFTA) yielded the following results:

Sounds in Words: Total errors 18 Percentile rank 15th

## **FLUENCY**

All parameters of fluency were unremarkable.

## **VOICE AND RESONANCE**

All parameters of voice and resonance are unremarkable and appropriate for age and gender.

## **LANGUAGE**

Andre demonstrates mild delays in receptive language development at this time. Mildly delayed syntactic development is presented. While consistent comprehension of compound sentences is noted, complex sentences appear to be emerging. Comprehension of morphological markers is judged to be mildly delayed, with prepositions established and tense markers noted to be emerging. Moderate deficits are indicated in auditory processing, with delayed response patterns evidenced. At this time, the ability to follow sequential two step directions is appropriately demonstrated. Comprehension of "Which" questions, including "Why-When", is clearly established, and knowledge of "How" "What" ... If/"If ... Then" and complex questions which incorporate spatial, temporal, comparative and sequential concepts appears to be emerging. Responses to questions are generally accurate and contingent. Non-verbal logic and reasoning skills are generally fair; the ability to identify pictured absurdities is established. Concrete verbal reasoning is moderately developed as evidenced in sequential problem solving. The ability to draw inferences and make predictions of potential outcomes appears to be emerging. Receptive vocabulary is restricted. Overall, Andre's general fund of knowledge in this domain is judged to be adequate.

The Language Scale-4 (LS-4), a test of receptive and expressive language content, and structure, was administered. The following results were attained:

Auditory Comprehension:  
Raw Score 43 Standard Score 78  
Language Age Equivalent 5.10 Percentile 30th

Expressive Communication: Raw Score 36 Standard Score 40 Language Age Equivalent 4.5  
Percentile 20th

Expressive abilities appear to be moderately delayed across all parameters of development. Reduced language production is impacted by poor intelligibility. Apparent limitations are found in syntactic development; expressive productions are primarily characterized by phrase structures via oral production. Andre uses simple sentences to augment his expressions. An average MLU of 4-5 is found. Language use is appropriate and varied and includes the ability to request, respond, and call notice. The ability to express needs and wants effectively is well developed, and Andre will readily ask questions in order to gain information about his environment. Imitation of vocal and verbal productions was clearly established. Auditory memory skills are limited as seen in the abbreviated recall of word sentences and digit sequences. Auditory recall appears to improve when the context is of a semantic nature. Delays are noted in morphological development, although markers including pronouns and possessives are established.

Negatives appear to be emerging. Elementary use of prepositions, tense markers, and plurals is beginning to develop, but "irregular past/regular past" are not demonstrated. The ability to form interrogative structures appears to be established, as indicated by the use of "Wh" questions "What"/"Where"/"Who"/"Why"/"When". Semantic development is judged to be delayed; vocabulary appears to be fair for age expectation. Typical usage includes labels for common objects/clothing items and action verbs. Additionally, Andre incorporates modifiers (such as size, color, and attributes) into his lexicon. The ability to describe events from the recent past is established. Word finding skills are found to be within normal limits. Examples of utterances which characterize typical production include: "Judy go to speech" and, "my mother coming today".

## **IMPRESSIONS**

Andre is a 14 year and 5 month old male, who demonstrates mildly delayed receptive and moderately delayed expressive language development at present. Suspected difficulties in articulation prompted this referral. Voice was found to be within normal limits. Resonance is unremarkable. Articulatory development is remarkable, resulting in fair intelligibility of speech production. Strengths are found in the development of social language skills, use of language to mediate the environment, and motivation. Andre demonstrates weaknesses in the establishment of expressive complexity, breath support for extended utterances, and intelligibility. Relative strengths are evidenced in overall receptive language development.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Dysfluency is demonstrated with insufficient severity to be of clinical concern at this time. Speech and language therapy is recommended to address the following goals:

LTG: To decrease unintelligible production at the single word level. STO: Andre will produce single words accurately on stimulation in 8/10 trials. STO: Andre will produce initial and final consonants accurately in 8/10 trials.

LTG: To improve production of target phonemes.  
STO: Andre will produce d,t,k,g,sh,ch,l,r accurately on stimulation

LTG: To improve intelligibility by increasing precision of lingual movement.  
STO: Andre will place his tongue tip on the roof of his mouth in 9/10 trials.

STO: Andre will protrude and elevate his tongue tip externally in 5/10 trials.

STO: Andre will produce tongue tip phonemes in succession in 8/10 trials.

STO: Andre will alternate two phonemes (in syllable form) in 7/10 trials.

LTG: To improve expressive vocabulary.

STO: Andre will label 30 common objects to stimuli presented from familiar categories in 9/10 trials.

STO: Andre will label actions presented, including write, read, think, help, get and do in 9/10 trials.

Orthodontics: Referral to Orthodontist for correction of malocclusion necessary to resolve speech pathosis.

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