

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month (BHSM) and the 2019 theme is:

“Communication Across the Lifespan”

Ideas to Celebrate:

- Utilize Recognize CORE to recognize and celebrate our speech therapy practitioners
- Coordinate an all staff in-service to educate others on the role of speech therapy and identification considerations:
 - Swallow Focus:
 - Have food textures available for trial
 - Provide education on feeding and swallowing disorders
 - Provide education on identification considerations:
 - Does the resident experience difficulty with swallowing, chewing or drinking?
 - Does the resident receive a mechanically altered diet?
 - Has there been a diet change?
 - Does the resident receive thickened liquids?
 - Is there evidence of recent unplanned weight loss or gain?
 - Is there coughing or choking during or following meals / medication administration?
 - Are swallow strategies ineffective?
 - Speech and Language Focus:
 - Provide education on communication
 - Provide education on identification considerations:
 - Does the resident appropriately answer yes/no questions?
 - Does the resident appropriately follow simple directions (1 step commands)?
 - Does the resident appropriately follow complex directions (2-3 step commands)?
 - Is the resident able to engage in simple one-to-one communication?
 - Does the resident understand single words?
 - Does the resident understand simple sentences?
 - Cognition Focus:
 - Conduct sample cognitive screening tasks
 - Provide education on identification considerations:
 - Is the resident oriented to person, place and time?
 - Does the resident experience periods of confusion? When? How often?
 - Does the resident experience short-term memory loss?
 - Does the resident experience long-term memory loss?
 - Does the resident exhibit agitation or adverse behaviors when not understood, having difficulty communicating or when over stimulated?
 - Has there been a change in safety awareness and or impulsivity?
- Create a speech therapy month bulletin board in your department recognizing your speech therapy practitioners by providing fun facts about them
- Offer hearing screenings for the facility staff (if you have access to an audiometer)



COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Better Hearing & Speech Month