

Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist

Speech Therapy Agreement Between Parent and Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP

This document contains important information about professional services and business policies for evaluations and therapy offered by Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP (Licensed Speech Language Pathologist 21800). Please read this information carefully and make note of any questions you have so they can be discussed with Mrs. Abbene prior to signing this document.

Benefits, Risks, and Alternatives to Treatment

You have been given this document because you are requesting speech therapy services (assessment and treatment, if indicated) for _____ (name of child). An assessment can identify specific areas of communicative strengths and weaknesses, which helps to determine treatment goals and objectives. Based on screening results and/or parent/teacher referral, Mrs. Abbene will assess any or all of the following areas: receptive/expressive language, articulation, social language, fluency, voice. Assessment includes standardized testing, as well as professional informal evaluation and observations of the student across settings.

There are several potential benefits for completing a thorough assessment, including, but not limited to: understanding the probable cause of difficulties your child may be experiencing; determining what, if any, additional interventions may be helpful (e.g., classroom modifications, speech therapy treatment, speech therapy consultation, etc.); assisting the teacher and other school staff working with your child; and assisting you in making informed educational decisions for your child.

Likewise, there are several potential benefits from participating in speech therapy, including, but not limited to: improved receptive and expressive language skills; increased speech intelligibility; improved fluency; improved vocal quality; and increased self-esteem and self-confidence.

Some risks do exist, however. In rare cases, for example, the test results may not accurately reflect your child's abilities due to motivation, fatigue, and/or illness during testing. School-based observations may be limited. Cautionary statements will be included in the written report when applicable. Additionally, your child may experience minor discomfort during testing due to fatigue or frustration. You and/or your child may disagree with testing results.

Please realize that you are free to seek services elsewhere (e.g., through a speech pathologist within the community, through your medical insurance, within the public school if your child qualifies through Special Education).

If you choose to use Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP, Mrs. Abbene will work with you and your child to identify the primary areas of concern, establish goals for therapy, and work with your child to achieve those goals. In order to do so, information may be obtained from you, your child's teachers, other professionals who have worked with your child, and/or your child. This may be done via interviews, observations, and/or questionnaires.

Unless the parent requests otherwise, Mrs. Abbene will collaborate with school staff as needed. Specifically, she may request input from teachers, administrators, and support staff (e.g., Assistants, Learning Support Director, Psychologist, etc.) to maximize your child's benefit from the services she provides.



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It is important for the professionals at your child's school to be aware of his/her strengths and areas of development in order to meet the student's individual needs. Nevertheless, release of the information is not required. Please check the appropriate box and initial next to the statement that applies.

- ☐ I grant permission for my child's school to receive a copy of the report.
- ☐ I do NOT grant permission for my child's school to receive a copy of the report.

Mrs. Abbene will use a variety of methods and techniques to address the identified issues and achieve the established goals. Training and guidance may be provided to the family and teachers. There are no guarantees as to the nature, extent, or rate of improvement in your child's development. If you have questions, at any time about the services being provided, please feel free to ask Mrs. Abbene for clarification.

Hours and Availability

Speech therapy services (assessment and treatment) will be conducted at your child's school during class time and/or after school, as agreed by Mrs. Abbene and the child's parent(s) and teacher(s). Test sessions typically last 60-90 minutes, and multiple sessions will most likely be needed to complete the assessment. Speech therapy treatment sessions are typically offered twice per week in either 30 or 60 minute sessions. The amount of time and frequency of sessions will vary depending on the nature and severity of the issues. If it becomes clear that more extensive services are warranted (e.g., longer duration, home-based training, special adaptations, etc.), Mrs. Abbene and the school staff may provide you with a referral list of speech pathologists and/or other medical professionals within the community.

Confidentiality and Record Keeping

It is important that your child feels that he or she is in a positive and safe environment, is comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings, and is being challenged appropriately. Although Mrs. Abbene will make every effort to protect your child's privacy, she cannot prevent other people from seeing your child working with her in the classroom, leaving the classroom, and/or entering her office. Occasionally, Mrs. Abbene may find it helpful to seek consultation with other professionals regarding your child. Such consultations are also legally bound by laws of confidentiality, and she will make every effort to protect confidentiality when discussing your child's case.

The California Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (SLPAB) provides information regarding credentials, professional conduct, regulatory, and certification renewal issues. The SLPAB consists of board members who are the leaders of the State's licensing and regulatory agencies. Board members make important decisions on board policies and on disciplinary actions against professionals who violate state consumer protection laws. Board members approve regulations and help guide licensing, enforcement, public education and consumer protection activities. Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP is a registered and licensed speech language pathologist through the SLPAB. Mrs. Abbene is required by law and by the standards of her profession to keep treatment records. You may be legally entitled to receive a copy of your child's records.

This is an agreement between Kathryn M. Abbene as an independent contractor and the parent(s). The school cannot guarantee the quality and standards of speech therapy service. The school where your child attends has no liability in relation to this agreement.

Release of Information

Most insurance agreements require you to acquire a referral for speech therapy services by the child's doctor in order to process the claim for reimbursement. The insurance company may request a copy of the assessment report and/or treatment record. Once the insurance company has this information, there is no way to control what they do with it.

In order to more completely understand and work with your child, it may be important to obtain records from previous treating professional(s). Please provide Mrs. Abbene with information on previous services received by your child. My child has been previously evaluated by a speech language pathologist, medical, and/or mental health professional:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No



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You will receive a copy of your child's report, which will summarize test performance, provide professional impressions and/or observations, and include recommendations designed to assist your child. If you wish, Mrs. Abbene can provide a summary of the evaluation/recommendations to your child's doctor or health professional upon receipt of a signed *Authorization to Release/Exchange Confidential Information*.

Contacting Mrs. Abbene

Mrs. Abbene may be contacted via e-mail during school hours. She is often not immediately available, and does not check or respond to messages when she is working with clients. Please e-mail: kabbene.slp@gmail.com and your message will be replied to as soon as possible. If you prefer a response via telephone, please specify in your message. It is very important to notify Mrs. Abbene ahead of time of your child's absence from a scheduled therapy session. Every effort will be made to make-up your child's treatment session within the month. Mrs. Abbene cannot guarantee make-ups for missed treatments without prior notification. In the event a treatment session is missed due to an assembly, prayer service, etc., Mrs. Abbene will make every effort to reschedule the missed session(s) with the school staff.

Payment and Fees

The costs of initial assessments are specified in the *Speech/Language Price List*. Mrs. Abbene will discuss the specifics of your child's testing with you in advance and will estimate the total cost. There is no additional charge for the time required to meet with you to explain the results and recommendations. If extensive testing is required, those services may be billed to you at the rate of a regular Speech/Language Therapy treatment in 30 minute increments. Payment for assessment must be received prior to the release of a written report.

Fees for treatment are billed at the beginning of each month. Credit card payments will be processed on the Friday prior to the first therapy session of the month. For ongoing services, a minimum of 50% of the total estimated amount is due by the first day of the month. The balance due must be received no later than the 15th of each month, or it will be considered late. Late payments may result in discontinuation from service and/or loss of specific treatment spot during the school day. Please make check payable to and send payments to:

Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP
27758 Santa Margarita Pkwy #253
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

There is a \$15.00 charge on all returned checks. Delinquent accounts will be referred for collection; the minimum amount of information necessary will be released in order for the collection agency to secure payment.

Upon request, an invoice will be provided following payment for parents to submit for potential reimbursement through their insurance companies. Please note that Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP will not bill insurance companies directly. Rates and explanation of services are explained in the *Speech/Language Price List*.



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Acknowledgement

I have reviewed the information in this agreement and have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. I accept, understand, and agree to abide by the contents and terms of this agreement. I consent to have my child participate in speech therapy services (assessment and treatment, if indicated) with Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP. I understand that this agreement is between me and Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP, and not my child's school.

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Relationship to Student

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Relationship to Student

Signature

Date

Acknowledged by Kathryn M. Abbene, M.A., CCC-SLP



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