

Charles E. and Geneva S. Scott

Scottish Rite Communication Disorders Clinic

College of Health Sciences · Appalachian State University

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The Charles E. and Geneva S. Scott Scottish Rite Communication Disorders Clinic at Appalachian State University received an inquiry from a worried mom regarding speech-language therapy services for her seven-year-old son. He had been diagnosed at the age of four at Brenner's Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem with Velocardiofacial Syndrome (VCFS).

VCFS is characterized primarily by cleft palate, heart defects, a characteristic facial appearance, problems fighting infection, and learning disorders. This syndrome also has significant implications for speech-language and feeding problems and emotional-behavioral problems. Individuals who have VCFS usually require services from a team of experts, including a speech-language pathologist. Children who have VCFS often require surgical repair of their heart defects, and may need surgical repair for cleft palate. They also often require years of speech-language therapy and other supports.



The Communication Disorders Clinic at ASU has been the answer to this family's search for appropriate speech-language therapy. Coordination of services is ongoing with the cleft team and the speech-language pathologist at Brenner's, and our mutual client has begun making progress over the last two semesters. The family is happy to have found a clinic that knows how and what to do for a child who has VCFS. The family is also grateful to the Scottish Rite for helping to provide a place with therapists who understand the syndrome and can give their child the services he needs.



Next month...

The July newsletter will focus on services offered to preschool children with speech and language deficits.

We offer our sincerest appreciation for the continued support of the Scottish Rite, without which we could not fulfill our mission.