

Charles E. and Geneva S. Scott

Scottish Rite Communication Disorders Clinic

College of Health Sciences · Appalachian State University

Thomas O. Eller Preschool Language Classroom

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For the past two and one half years at the Charles E. and Geneva S. Scott Scottish Rite Communication Disorders Clinic, the student clinicians have not been the only teachers responsible for helping the children improve their communication abilities. Behind the doors of the Thomas O. Eller Preschool Language Classroom, there has been another “teacher”. She may be smaller in stature, but she is not at all lacking in willingness to teach others, both big and small. Her name is Summer. She has Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), which makes verbal communication extremely challenging. But Summer stops at nothing to be understood, and always shows compassion for the other children in the classroom.

Summer has made great progress since she began speech therapy in 2011. She now “runs the show” as the classroom veteran, helping others find their seats at snack time, signing to her deaf friend, and warning others that “clean-up time” is fast



Summer shares an “I love you” sign with a friend at snack time.



Summer, working hard on one of her target words in a speech therapy session in the clinic.

Continued...

approaching. In addition to her helpfulness in the classroom, she works diligently to master her list of target words in daily individual speech therapy sessions. Her diagnosis has limited her ability to be understood in the past, but if she has any say-so in the matter (and if left up to her, she probably will), then she will leave the preschool classroom ready to conquer the new challenges she will face in Kindergarten in the fall.

Next month...

The August newsletter will focus on summer language camp.

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