

# Monthly Update

## Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss December 2013

Karen L. Anderson, Director

The end of 2013 is now upon us and with it, the holiday season. This Update will be focused on some gift giving ideas, for children with hearing loss and the parents/teachers/professionals who have devoted their lives to working to improve their futures. The January Update will again be filled with what's new on SSCHL!



### Making Hearing Devices Cool

Between the ages of 4-6 children develop a sense of judgment, largely by peer comments. Any child wants to feel as though they are acceptable to peers and that other children would like to be their friend. Below are some ideas for improving understanding of how cool 'ear technology/ear computers' are and making them..... cute!

(1) **FREE POSTER** - whether hanging on a classroom wall or in a child's bedroom, this poster will give a boost to the self-esteem of any child with hearing loss. Tony Stark points out that without his technology, he would just be a regular guy. It is his technology that really makes it possible for him to do neat things. [Ordering](#) through Phonak is easy, even in quantities.



(2) **HEARING DEVICE 'WARDROBE'** - Ear Gear not only protects hearing aids and helps keep them on kids' heads, it comes in cool colors - even camo for boys! I've negotiated a great 20% off coupon that is available until the end of December from [Ear Gear](#). Use coupon code SSCHL12 for your 20% off!

(3) **BETTER PEER UNDERSTANDING:** Assist understanding of class peers through the use of this cute DVD, designed specifically to show classes ages K-grade 3. [5 Ways to Say Good Day](#) uses puppets showing situations where it is challenging for the little boy with a hearing loss and what those around him can do to help him understand what they say. Good tips for classroom communication, even without hearing loss!



(4) **HEARING AID AND COCHLEAR BLING JEWELRY:** Girls can be the envy of their peers with this fun jewelry, available from [Hayleigh's Cherished Charms](#). Hayleigh started creating these charms as a 12-year-old. "When I was little and attended a school for hard of hearing and deaf children I noticed that a lot of kids tried to hide their hearing aids behind their hair. **I wanted to make my hearing aids shine and be fancy and proud of my hearing aids.**" Even sharing Hayleigh's website with children will help to bolster their self-esteem and pride in wearing hearing aids and cochlear implants. Thanks Hayleigh! See the [video](#)!

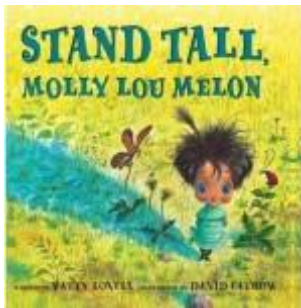
(5) **TUBE RIDERS:** At less than \$7 each, tube riders are inexpensive enough for a whole wardrobe. Can be used with hearing aids and cochlear implants. There are 25 styles of [Tube Riders](#) and the rocket, football, firetruck, etc. make them fun for boys and girls.



(6) **DOLLS AND BEARS (OH MY!):** Having a special friend that also wears hearing aids can contribute to a young child feeling special - in a good way! The [American Girl](#) and [My Twinn](#) dolls each have an option for hearing aids. The [Build-A-Bear](#) company has hearing aids for bears too - good for boys and girls! I was surprised to see that these doll accessories were so inexpensive.

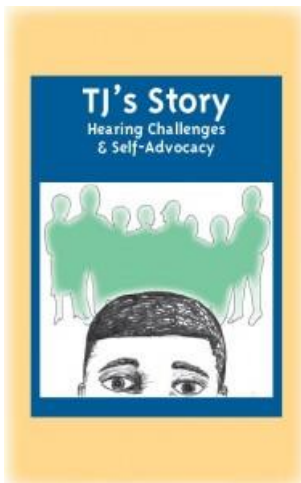
# Improve Child Self-Concept and Self-Advocacy Skills

Self-concept, social communication, self-advocacy - all have to do with a child feeling okay about themselves and that they fit in with their peers. I am very excited to have pulled the following resources together.



[Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon](#) is a favorite child's book with a strong message of being proud of who you are and good advice for teasing/bullying. It comes with a sample lesson plan and an example of IEP goals written to Common Core Standards when working with students with hearing loss on these issues \$16.00 + S/H

[Wizard's Challenge Self-Concept & Self-Advocacy Game](#) will look familiar to those of you who have *Building Skills for Success in the Fast-Paced Classroom*. Many students are familiar with the Harry Potter books and movies. This game correlates Harry's feeling 'different' at Hogwarts with how a student with hearing loss may feel and draws on Harry Potter's example for how to make it through challenging situations. The laminated game board and playing pieces come with a die, game cards, sample IEP goals written to Common Core Standards and a discussion version of the content more suitable to tweens and teens.



[TJ's Story: Hearing Challenges & Self-Advocacy](#) is a booklet that I am very excited to make available. Written by TJ and his educational audiologist, this touching story describes hearing challenges, what helps, and how it feels to work so hard to listen. The booklet would be perfect to give to a classroom teacher as an introduction to having a child who is hard of hearing in her classroom. It would provide a great basis for a parent to talk to a child about challenges, feelings and what he/she can do to feel better about being a 'one and only' with hearing devices at school. Finally, *TJ's Story* can serve as the basis for a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing to work on self-concept and self-advocacy skills. When purchased, the booklet comes with sample IEP goals written to Common Core Standards.

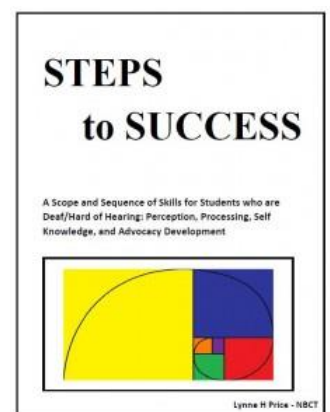
[TJ's Story](#) is available at cost of production plus S/H. Everyone should have TJ!

A pdf of TJ's Story is our gift to you! [TJ's Story: Hearing Challenges & Self-Advocacy](#)

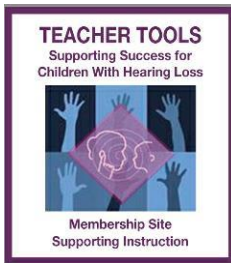
**All 3 are available as the Self-Concept Combo, at only \$29.50 + S/H**

## A Gift for Yourself!

It is estimated that approximately 25% of the estimated number of teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing and educational audiologists now own [Building Skills for Success in the Fast-Paced Classroom](#). Thanks to you all! It is always so heartwarming to have an individual share how much they use this resource and I have been pleasantly surprised by how many refer to it at "The Bible" for supporting students with hearing loss in the mainstream. There is a lot of information in *Building Skills* and it has been called overwhelming by more than a few people! Professionals new to the field and 'veterans' alike have really been enjoying the one-two punch of using both *Building Skills* and [Steps to Success: Scope and Sequence for Skill Development](#) to assess, plan for and serve students with hearing loss. Treat yourself to both! There is a special combination price too that is the cheapest way to purchase *Building Skills*!



## Thanks to the 170 teachers who are already Teacher Tools Members!



Designed specifically for teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing, these resources are inexpensive and of high quality. Go to the [Teacher Tools Membership website](#) for more information. You can join anytime throughout the school year. New materials are posted by the 10th of each month from September through April. **In December**, Teacher Tools will continue to look at using rating scales to teach intensity. The activities will focus on Advocacy Skills by looking at how to rate listening situations to determine what makes one setting better than another for listening. Social Skills will expand word choice for emotions. Words, words, words will look at collective nouns.

## NEW WEBCASTS FOR 2013

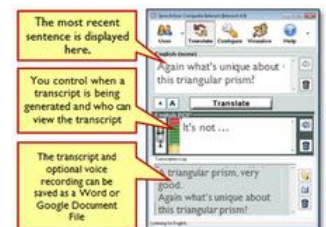
This professional development option is better than ever! [Group Webcasts](#) can now be purchased online. There are substantial discounts for purchasing multiple webcasts for one year. Once a group webcast is purchased, you will receive the webcast links and downloads for each presentation that will be good for three views until June 30th of the current school year. When presenting a webcast to a group, you need to allow time to load/check the webcast at least the day before. These are very large files and may need to buffer (pause) as they load, depending on the speed of the internet at your school. New webcasts are up on the [Webcasts to Support the Success of Children with Hearing Loss](#) website. The following new webcasts will be available for view by the end of December.



- **NOW [Social Communication Issues and Belonging in the Classroom](#)** Presenter: Karen Anderson
- **[FM Basics and Beyond](#)** Presenter: Lisa Cannon
- **Supporting Children Birth to Three - [Parents and Professionals: A Shared Journey](#)** Presenter: Kris English
- **"[Minding the Gap:](#)" [Counseling Strategies for Tweens and Teens with Hearing Loss](#)** Presenter: Kris English

## The next INTERACT-AS webinar will be in mid-January.

Welcome Mike Massine, SSCHL's new Interact-AS Sales Support Consultant. Mike will be available to speak with you in depth about meeting your student's needs with an Interact-AS trial period, including walking you through the trial period and checking in to be sure all is going well! I feel fortunate to have Mike to provide the personal attention needed to answer questions and get a successful experience launched! Thanks Mike! He can be reached at [interact-assupport@successforkidswithhearingloss.com](mailto:interact-assupport@successforkidswithhearingloss.com). The Summary of [Key Points for a Successful Trial Period and Interact-AS Success Stories](#) and [Interact-AS Success Stories](#) may be a good place to start if you haven't heard much about this accommodation technology.



## Social Media

Thanks too to all our [Facebook fans](#) for the wonderful support. Please share the [page](#) with your friends and family, and stay tuned in the next few weeks because we'll provide you with great tips on how to make the holidays more meaningful and fun for kids with hearing loss.

**THANKS** We hope that you find SSCHL information and products helpful as you raise your child or work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. I am thrilled that almost 15,000 visits per month occur to access resources to support the children with hearing loss in your life! I welcome your communication and encourage you to submit suggestions for resources you need and how we can grow to better support the success of children with hearing loss. – Karen Anderson