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## ASSOCIATED SPEECH & LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS, LLC

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### IMPROVING communication. Transforming LIVES.

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#### Fall Fun for Everyone



By mid-September, children go from jumping into the lake to leaping into a pile of leaves. Fall is about embracing the weather, great food, and family fun. Of course, your speech therapists want to help you come up with ways to target your communication skills too!

#### **Here are 10 ways to mix pumpkin-themed excitement into speech therapy:**

1. Have your child make a wanted ad for “the perfect pumpkin.” It is a fun way to work on adjectives, exclusions, rhyming, and more. (Looking for a gigantic pumpkin filled to the brim with seeds, but not beads.)
2. When at a pumpkin patch, play ‘I spy’ for pumpkins with different attributes. Example: one with a curly stem.
3. Try making a pumpkin patch picture scene to work on reducing fronting errors: In the pumpkin patch, I found corn, turkeys, a soccer ball, a rake, a cat, and a duckk!
4. Head to your local library and check out a book such as, Clifford’s First Autumn to read and point out all the prepositions (under, next to) or articles (the, an) while you’re reading. Or you could have your kids point to various actions: “Show me who is jumping.”
5. If you’re baking pumpkin seeds, work on comparing and contrasting to your child’s other favorite snacks.
6. While eating a pumpkin pie, children can work on similes to create elaborate descriptions. (It’s as sweet as Grandma’s cookies.)
7. For our friends who have a hard time saying multisyllabic words, here are some fall-themed words that would be great to practice in tongue twisters: Jack-o-lantern, October, hocus pocus, superstition, skeleton skull, firefighter costume, vampire, and trick-or-treat.

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8. A fun way to work on sequencing is to have your child provide their siblings the steps to carving a silly face pumpkin.
9. You can work on comparatives and superlatives by ordering the pumpkins your family has by: heavy, heavier, heaviest and big, bigger, biggest.
10. Lastly, families are encouraged to use finger paints to make pumpkins. Adds a nice sensory touch, and is fun to talk about how it feels, and what colors and designs you use.

### **Quick and Easy Pumpkin Pancakes:**

#### **Ingredients:**

3 cups of Bisquick (or your favorite pancake mix)  
3 eggs  
1 ½ cups milk  
1 cup pumpkin puree  
2 tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp cloves  
½ tsp nutmeg  
1 tsp vanilla



#### **Directions:**

Mix all dry ingredients. Add eggs, milk, pumpkin, and vanilla, reserving some of the milk until the end so you can get the consistency you desire (or add water).  
Cook pancakes until golden brown on both sides.

### **Fall Family Fun:**



**Twin Cities Harvest Festival & Maze:** Open weekends Sept. – Oct. 25 plus MEA weekend-10-6. \$10/ pp online, and \$12 at gate, kids under 36" free. Features MN's largest corn maze, and this year's theme celebrates the Minnesota Wild! Solve the maze, play in the corn pit, meet and pet animals, and take a hayride. Additional activities charge small fee. [www.twincitiesmaze.com](http://www.twincitiesmaze.com)

**Scarecrow festival at Emma Krumbees:** Open now- Oct. 30, 10-6, \$5.50/pp plus tax. Admission includes entrance to the festival plus run of the playground, farm animals, wagon rides, a slide and more. Pick-your-own apples in Emma's orchard are an additional charge. [www.emmakrumbees.com](http://www.emmakrumbees.com)

**Apple Festival:** Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10-4 in Falcon Heights. \$8/adults, \$7/seniors, \$5/children 4-16, under 4/free. Oodles of apples! Apple games, apple crafts, sample apples from the orchard and enjoy lunch plus tours to the farmhouse, and hayrides! All activities and food are included in admission fee.

**Stillwater Harvest Festival:** Sat. & Sun., Oct. 10-11 from 10-6. Free admission. Don't miss the giant pumpkin weigh-in, pumpkin regatta, or the kids pumpkin pull! Plus, lovely downtown Stillwater will be decorated!



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Alysse T.

Alysse works in Plymouth Office.

Co-workers describe as: Creative, kind, and a wonderful therapist.

Family: Alysse has a twin brother named Adam, and an older brother named Aaron. Her parents are nothing short of amazing. They have a miniature horse named Half Pint and a standard horse named Bingo. They also have a family dog (yellow lab) named Sadie. She has a husband named Jake and a dog (black lab mix) named Ellie.

Born and raised in: Alysse was born in Hoffman Estates, IL, and raised in Brookfield, WI.

3 things she can't live without: Alysse can't live without dark chocolate, 80's music, and traveling.

Favorite restaurant: Alysse's favorite restaurant is Fuji-Ya. She loved sushi.

If I had a million dollars: She would travel.

Favorite book: The Art of Racing in the Rain.

Favorite movie: Up.

People don't know this: Alysse is fluent in Spanish, and deaf in her right ear.



## STAR CLIENT: Rylan, Plymouth office

Rylan sees Alysse in the Plymouth office. Here is what she has to say about him:

Rylan has been seeing Alysse for speech twice a week since August 2014. However, he has been coming to ASLS since December 2012. Currently, he is working on higher level language skills such as summarizing, figurative language, perspective taking, inferences and word finding. Recently they have been working on role playing and identifying ways to have a successful job interview and how to make the best first impression. Progress has been noted in the depth of his responses, vocabulary development, comparing and contrasting, and use of strategies to visualize information.

### **FUN FACTS ABOUT RYLAN:**

Rylan is the biggest Minnesota Wild hockey fan! He is the oldest child and has 3 siblings. He also has a chocolate lab named Marley. He is a freshman at Minnetonka High School. When he is finished with school, he'd love to be a professional fisherman like Scott Martin. He loves to eat Nutella waffles, and spend time with his family such as breakfast on Saturday mornings with his Boppa. His dream car is a cherry red Ferrari. If he could go anywhere right now, he would want to go fishing in Florida.

Dates to remember:



**Thursday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> & Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>** – offices are **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving.  
**Thursday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & Friday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** - offices are **CLOSED** for Christmas.  
**Friday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>**– offices are **CLOSED** to celebrate New Year’s Day.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ASSOCIATED SPEECH & LANGUAGE SPECIALISTS, LLC**

St. Paul – Phone: 651-225-4558, Fax: 651-225-9474  
Email: [stpaul@associatedspeech.com](mailto:stpaul@associatedspeech.com)

Maplewood – Phone: 651-773-3208, Fax: 651-783-5612  
Email: [maplewood@associatedspeech.com](mailto:maplewood@associatedspeech.com)

Shoreview – Phone: 651-639-0942, Fax: 651-639-1718  
Email: [shoreview@associatedspeech.com](mailto:shoreview@associatedspeech.com)

Plymouth – Phone: 763-551-3652, Fax: 763-551-1334  
Email: [plymouth@associatedspeech.com](mailto:plymouth@associatedspeech.com)

\*For our mailing addresses, please refer to our website.

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