

# LANGUAGE STRIDES



Speech and Language Therapy in the Home

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## Language Strides Turns 1 Today!

The spark was lit at a job interview around the year 2000 with my soon-to-be mentor, Diane Robey. I had been coaxing change on my feet in rehabilitation hospitals, and I was ready

to put down my clipboard and dig into children's language. What a good move that turned out to be!

Then, I had children and I learned all about the challenges of raising children with special needs. I called on my clinical skills quite a bit along the way, and did a lot of searching to help them find their paths.

Starting a business in January 2020, I hadn't planned for a pandemic. What a hectic time to start anything at all! A new business has little to weigh it down—I was poised to pivot. Just like the days with my clipboard in hand, I did what my hospital training taught me to do in times of turmoil: **Adapt**. And adapt we did. Parents and children gave me their trust, and we got it done. I'm so proud of the children, who came along and adapted too, when their whole worlds were turned upside down.

Many thanks to Language Strides' first families! I'm thrilled to be doing what I love the most with your children: **Building speech and language skills to support a lifetime of learning.**

*"There is nothing more reinforcing than having one's message understood."*

*Dr. Lillian Steigler*



*Emily surprised me with a Vowel Robot!*

## Making Meaningful Impact

A 3rd grade boy wrote a story that begins, *"There once was an alligator named Frank who had a problem with his speech."* In the end, *"Frank got all his speech sounds correct! He started helping other alligators with their speech."*

A Kindergartener struggled to grasp the concept of syllables. He kept at, even though it was hard. He was so proud of himself when he got it, he challenged me to give him really big words, just so he could show off!

A second grader decorated her house with banners and signs to surprise me one afternoon. She's so proud about her "red words," she checks the clock to make sure we'll have enough time to practice them each time.

A fifth grader wrote me a note to tell me that his distance learning work now takes him 1/3 of the time it used to take him to complete it. He got half his day back!

# Strides in Professional Development

Continuing education is part of every SLP's career, every year. This has been a landmark year for me though. I'm proud to receive the Award for Continuing Education this year from the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The award is granted for completing 70 hours of professional development over a period of three years. In 2020 alone, I completed over 100 hours, more than 50 of which specializing in literacy. Most notable:

- Meeting the Literacy Challenge: Listening, Talking, Reading, Writing. Speech Language Hearing Association of Virginia, March 2020
- Spotlight on Dyslexia Conference. Learning Ally, June 2020
- 30-Hour Orton-Gillingham Basic Language Course. Orton-Gillingham Online Academy, Fall 2020.

***"There is not one road to get where you want to go. There is your road."***

***Henry Winkler***

I have been able to hone in on the areas of my specialty like never before. All of this helps me bring evidence-based therapy to your children. This is one of my favorite things about running an independent practice. I'm living by Mr. Winkler's words.

