

THE MONTHLY POINT

Pivot Point Newsletter



Speech & Hearing Month: The Power of Early Intervention

Why early intervention is important for unlocking potential life long success for Diverse Abilities.

May brings an important focus with Speech & Hearing Month across Canada, and specifically Apraxia Awareness Day on May 14th. As specialists supporting children, youth, and families at Pivot Point for over two decades, this month serves as a critical reminder: *Early identification and support for communication differences is paramount.*

The early years represent a crucial window for development. When challenges related to speech, language, hearing, or motor planning (like Childhood Apraxia of Speech) are addressed promptly, we harness the brain's incredible capacity for learning and adaptation. Timely intervention provides the foundational building blocks children need not just for clear communication, but for social connection, emotional regulation, and future academic success. Waiting can often lead to increased frustration for the child and missed opportunities for foundational skill development.

This is particularly vital for our neurodivergent children, including autistic children and those with diverse learning profiles and abilities. Communication may present differently within neurodiverse populations, and conditions like apraxia can sometimes co-occur. Early, tailored support respects their unique neurological makeup, validates their experiences, and equips them with effective strategies to express their needs, thoughts, and personalities. It's not about changing who they are but about providing the tools they need to thrive and be understood.

At Pivot Point, our 21+ years of experience across British Columbia have consistently shown the transformative power of early, individualized support. If you have any concerns about your child's communication development – however small they may seem – we encourage you to trust your instincts and seek assessment. Identifying needs early opens pathways to understanding and empowers children to reach their full potential. Let's use this May to champion early action and celebrate every voice.

Pivot Point helps to create resiliency in all three levels: Children and adults with Diverse Abilities are recognized as individuals; celebrated for their whole character and potential. Families are embraced as essential in the process of change and the building of success. Community members are welcomed to join with individuals and their families in their quest for health and happiness. Learn more about our [System of Care](#) today!

Newsletter Content Submissions

If you would like to participate in writing content, sending in photographs and/or sharing ideas for the staff newsletter, please contact Rochelle at: marketing@pivotpoint.ca

Newsletter Feedback

Rochelle would like to hear from you! Please provide her with your feedback or let her know of specific topics that you would like to see in upcoming newsletters by completing our [Feedback & Suggestion Form](#). Thank you for your input!

Staff Spotlight - Utami McCoshen HR Coordinator - All Regions

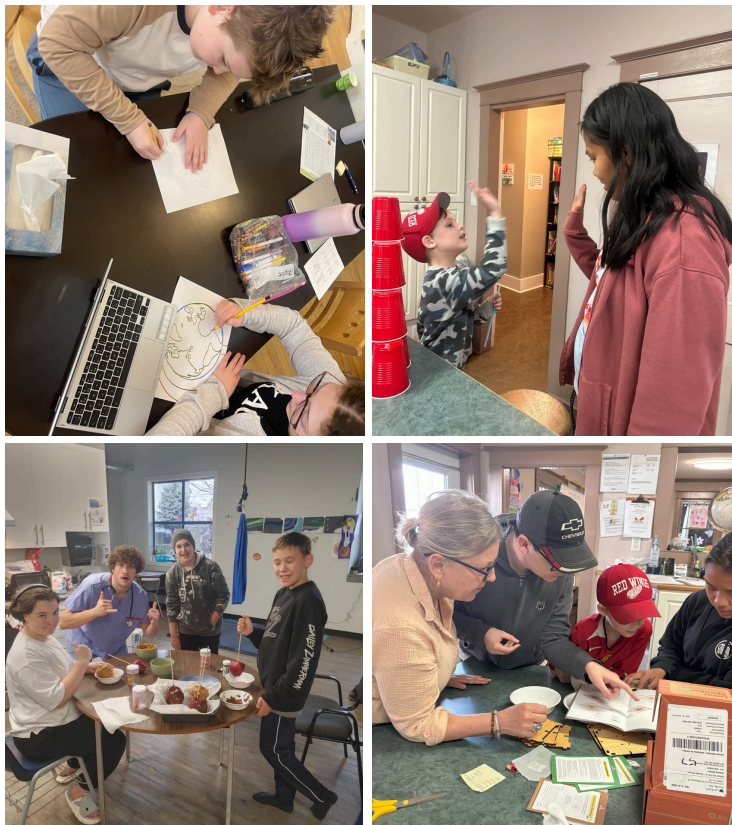


Utami made a dedicated career switch, joining our HR team in Dec. 2023 after her practicum. With extensive leadership experience in social services (since 2016), she now assists in supporting our ~250 staff across all regions.

Utami is passionate about employee relations and development, pursuing her CPHR designation to further enhance her skills. A community volunteer and flutist in her spare time, Utami brings diverse talents to Pivot Point. We are grateful for Utami's commitment and the significant contributions she makes towards supporting our staff and strengthening our team.

Learning isn't a one-size-fits-all.

For many neurodiverse and autistic learners, traditional schools don't meet their unique social, emotional, and educational needs. At [Pivot Point Learning Centres](#), we create a space where children don't just cope – they flourish. (With 12 locations across BC & online options)



Now Accepting Students for Fall 2025. [Learn more](#) about our approach today!

Apraxia Awareness - May 14: Supporting Communication

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), is a neurological motor speech disorder where the brain struggles to plan and coordinate the precise muscle movements needed for clear speech, even though the muscles themselves aren't weak. For autistic and other neurodivergent children, who may already navigate unique communication landscapes and sensory processing differences, the co-occurrence of CAS can add a significant layer of complexity and potential frustration. Expressing intricate thoughts or urgent needs can become a profound challenge when the pathway from intention to articulation is disrupted.

Fortunately, significant strides in understanding and support offer families more effective pathways forward. We've moved towards earlier, more accurate identification and highly individualized, neurodiversity-affirming therapies. Recognizing that communication is multifaceted, support often integrates evidence-based speech therapy techniques with robust Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) strategies right from the start. Our goal isn't solely focused on articulation, but on fostering effective communication, reducing frustration, and equipping every child with the tools they need to participate fully and live their best life, authentically.

When a child's attempts to communicate are consistently thwarted by speech, language, or motor planning challenges like apraxia, significant frustration is almost inevitable. Unmet needs and the inability to clearly express thoughts, feelings, or discomfort can manifest in ways often labelled as challenging behaviours. Increased emotional outbursts, withdrawal from social interactions, heightened anxiety, or even physical actions can become default responses when words fail. It's crucial to recognize these behaviours often stem directly from a communication barrier, underscoring why timely and appropriate support is so vital in providing functional ways to connect, express needs effectively, and ultimately reduce distress for the child and family.

Complete our [Intake form](#) for a Complimentary Consultation today!