



International SLP Student Clinical Experiences: Lessons From Ghana

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Effiduasi Methodist School's "Unit School"

- Parents wanted children to be able to purchase goods in market for their families. Developed functional AAC cards for this purpose.
- Small group of teacher, parent, students, supervisor and SLP students when to market to see what was essential to communicate.
- Identified 14 items commonly purchased in the market consistently priced at 20 pesewas, 50 pesewas, and 1 cedi. Created AAC cards for 14 food items at each price.
- First did role playing in school with AAC cards and food items.
- Parents, teachers and teachers, and grad students and supervisors took a trip to the market. Students used the AAC cards to make purchases.
- Great excitement and many overwhelmed, including the market women, watching the students functionally use the AAC cards.
- The following week community center invited the head teacher to give a talk on disabilities for the first time.



Lessons From Ghana:

"As speech pathology students we often doubt our knowledge and competence. However, as we worked with patients at the hospital it became crystal clear that we knew more than we thought we did".

"I have never met anyone like Albert, the speech therapist at Korle Bu. With little resources, yet he is doing an amazing job as an SLP. I hope one day I get the chance to make an impact on the lives of those I come in contact with".

"The four hour bus ride was long and we were all very tired, but when we arrived were faced with a room full of parents and children with repaired and unprepared cleft lip/palates at Korle Bu Hospital, just as tired as us, patiently waiting for a consultation".



Sustainability

Korle Bu Hospital and Komfo Anokye Hospital

- Presentations to MDs, RNs, and med students on SLP's role on cleft palate team.
- Medical students spent time observing to learn about the field of SLP.
- Through their interpreting of our recommendations re individual patients we transferred SLP knowledge and skills to our Ghanaian colleagues .

Effiduasi Methodist School's "Unit School"

- Developed AAC materials with parents and teachers to share the knowledge base on how to expand AAC communication systems, including market activity.
- Demonstrated and then donated educational materials (e.g., books, paper, pencils).
- Belinda Bukari selected as 2011 Teacher in Residence for Bridge School.
- Met with Ghanaian DOE, Division of Special Education, re value of unit schools.

Garden City School

- Provided staff inservices on Autism, Down Syndrome, and Lang. Development.



Cleft palate team at University of Ghana

- Patients ranged from infants to adults. All were at different stages of cleft and lip palate repair.
- Fairly new team with no active SLP, PT, or developmental pediatrician.
- Assessed anatomy and physiology of clefts, swallowing function, cognitive development, and helped to identify syndromes.
- Developed treatment plan that was explained to and modeled for the parents/caregivers, which they had to model back. E.g., babbling focusing on sounds babies could make based on current anatomy and physiology.
- Made suggestions re safe feeding and swallowing.
- During team meeting, SLP students were invited to present their clinical findings and recommendations. Functioned as full members of team.



Other sites: ENT, Clement Ntim, Emmanuel

ENT Department at U of Ghana, Legon: Treated patients with a wide variety of disorders including language delays, patients with various syndromes, stroke patients, and voice patients related to activities at the market and churches.

Clement Ntim: Head teacher at a unit school. Already using AAC for toileting and feeding, recently named Ghana's special education teacher of 2010.

Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah: Works to raise awareness of disabilities and is building a school for students with disabilities. Subject of documentary *Emmanuel's Gift*,

