

News

MAGNOLIA SPEECH SCHOOL

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Magnolia Speech School recently was gifted by an anonymous donor three copies of the new Say-N-Play computer learning game software for use in the Hackett-Bower Clinic Testing/Evaluation Suites and for use by their Speech Pathologists. The software provides a fun and visually engaging environment for children between the ages of four to nine to practice speech pronunciation. Say-N-Play features Stanford Research Institute's EduSpeak speech recognition engine for identifying properly pronounced words.

The game features voice recognition technology and was created to provide a motivating activity for articulation drills that will have children asking to play again and again. Say-N-Play provides an exciting world filled with irresistible characters, enjoyable games, and multiple levels for children to explore while improving their articulation skills.

Baton Rouge speech-language pathologist, Holly Strange, M.S. CCC-SLP, conceived of the idea to utilize speech recognition technology to make practice enjoyable and offer an engaging alternative to traditional speech therapy drills. Say-N-Play's graphics are vivid, full of color, and child-appropriate. The game features colorful characters and numerous games to choose from. Say-N-Play allows children to perform articulation drills independently, whether they practice at home or in the clinic. Multiple levels and progress reports allow the player, parent, teacher, and/or speech therapist to monitor the child's success.

Say-N-Play was developed as a joint effort between Advance Games and Yatec, L.L.C. (www.yatecgames.com), another Baton Rouge video development company. Yatec was selected by Advance Games to develop Say-N-Play due to Yatec's expertise in designing and developing video games. Currently, two of Yatec's games, Enchanted Gardens and I.Q.: Identity Quest, are being distributed through various game websites and have been successful in the casual game market.

Magnolia Speech School is a unique, life changing auditory-oral program for hearing impaired and language-disordered children in the state of Mississippi. At Magnolia children are taught to listen and talk. Since 1956 thousands of children from the far corners of the state of Mississippi, and dozens of other states, have come to Magnolia Speech School and have left to succeed in the mainstream of public education without the need of additional services. The Mississippi State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accredit Magnolia Speech School.

Magnolia Speech School exists to teach children with severe communicative disorders to listen and understand, to speak and be understood, and to learn and thrive. The school is committed to enabling every student enrolled to become self-sufficient, independent and productive members of their community. The program's objectives target each child's deficits in communication and close "the gap" lying between them and their typical peers. Curriculum areas include Audition, Receptive Language, Expressive Language, Speech, Reading, Math, Social Studies, Science, Association Method, Fine and Gross Motor Skills and Social Interaction. All instruction is based on criteria and activities set forth in this curriculum.

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