

## What Are The New Programs? How Will They Help Provide Greater Educational Opportunity at Lewis?

In the near future, you will be hearing from us about new speech-language therapy and auditory training programs we are excited to bring to The Lewis School. They are a first step taken as part of the larger program expansion we will be implementing to advance a greater diversity of educational opportunity for your children. The new programs are intended to increase the effectiveness of the auditory multisensory learning we already offer, and they will selectively target different perspectives of speech and auditory processing development.

*Among the programs we will introduce are The Listening Program developed by Advanced Brain Technologies, a variation of the Lindamood-Bell Phonemic Processing Program and the Interactive Metronome Program. During the year, we will also be looking at other approaches to speech-language development such as the SOS auditory-visual learning method, the Auditory Integration Training Program (AIT) and the potential teaching applications of the Central Auditory Processing evaluation (CAP).*

As many of our teachers can attest, during the first two and a half decades at The Lewis School, music was not only offered in our performing arts program, but music was also an indispensable part of the way we taught children how to learn to listen and process auditorily. We developed exercises using simple pitched bells, a clicker and small percussion instruments, for example, that taught children rhythm and sequencing fluency, pitch-sound recognition, skills related to auditory attention-memory, as well as, auditory targeting, sequencing and organization.

Orff and Kinder Musik teaching methods were offered to encourage children to learn how to listen effectively, read music and compose original songs. These methods were also adapted and utilized in oral reading fluency and comprehension exercises, the reciting of poetry, the teaching of math and the development of appropriate voicing in children who tended to speak too softly or too loudly. *We know we need to revisit and re-implement some of these outstanding prior programs as we introduce the new ones, and we will be looking for your strong support to accomplish this.*

The innovative *Listening Program* also uses music to create auditory stimulation and organization in the brain. Developed by ABT, it is based on the research and work of Dr. Alfred Tomatis whose stated goal is “*to re-educate the way we listen.*” This program has been successfully implemented for individuals with listening, reading, sensory, attention social, communication and auditory processing deficits. Adults or children, as young as two years old, can benefit from The Listening Program. Jill Schulman, our Head Speech Pathologist and Speech-Therapy Coordinator, is in the process of becoming a Certified Instructor-Provider. The Listening Program is individualized, and each child’s progress is carefully monitored and documented.

Aspects of the original Lindamood Learning System have been incorporated in classroom teaching at Lewis for at least twenty years. The current *Lindamood-Bell Program* will provide additional strategies for some children who need to selectively improve decoding and comprehension by utilizing supplementary means of integrating auditory, visual and other oral motor feedback. This program, intended primarily for younger students, progresses sequentially from producing sounds in isolation to sequencing sounds in both nonsense and real words. The child then learns how to sequence real words in the context of *reading for meaning and paragraph comprehension*.

Finally, we will be introducing the *Interactive Metronome Program* and our school will be part of the extensive, on-going research associated with the program. To date, a large body of research supports the fact that his training is very effective in improving attention, language processing, reading, math computation fluency and the regulation of impulsivity. It is an exceptional program that accurately measures, assesses and builds the student's internal rhythm and timing so that the brain can plan, process and sequence information more effectively. The program uses repetitive, imprinting exercises which are measured through the use of hand and foot sensors; accuracy is assessed using the computer. Lewis will be fully licensed to provide this program.

If our students are to prepare productively for independent professional and personal life throughout their future education, they must ultimately be able to learn and succeed on their own in the environments of ordinary classrooms—regardless of the conditions. Our Lewis School teachers *and* our education are committed wholeheartedly to helping your children achieve this educational parity and independence to the greatest extent possible.

In that regard, we look forward to keeping you updated and working with you to implement excellent new educational opportunities for your children. We may be contacting some of you as early as November to ask your son or daughter to participate in our Interactive Metronome Program and its research.

All The Best To Our Families,

Marsha Gaynor Lewis/Director of The Lewis School  
Jill Schulman/Head Speech Pathologist