

Kristin R. Wells, M.S., CCC-SLP

I grew up in the Central Valley of California and graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a degree in Linguistics with a minor in Speech and Hearing Sciences. While in Santa Barbara, I had the opportunity to volunteer for a family using the Son-Rise Program® in their home. While with this family, I learned the value of home-based, child-centered therapy that not only benefited the child, but all those who worked with him. I was also blessed with the opportunity to work in the Speech and Hearing Sciences department as an assistant in stuttering research, which was fascinating! After graduation, I moved here to Oregon to pursue a master's degree to become a speech-language pathologist. I attended University of Oregon for my graduate work in Communication Disorders and Sciences.

In 2005, I graduated and began working at Mighty Oaks Children's Therapy Center in Albany, OR, a non-profit center providing speech, occupational and physical therapy services. While there, I learned a vast amount working with children of all abilities and enjoyed teaming with knowledgeable physical and occupational therapists to maximize treatment benefits. After almost two years with Mighty Oaks, I decided to get back to home-based, child-centered therapy by working privately. So here I am!

I truly enjoy working with children with special needs. They have a beautiful way of looking at and interacting with the world around them. Each child I treat is unique and amazing in their own way. My main goal for all of my clients is that they can more independently communicate their wants and needs to others, using augmentative, sign and verbal methods. Knowing that children learn best when they are happy and socially motivated, I use a play-based approach and positively encourage all my clients to learn and grow in new ways. I bring a loving and supportive outlook to all my treatment sessions and look forward to working with more amazing children and their families!

I believe that clear communication with parents and the child about treatment methods and goals is very important. Treatment is more beneficial when families work with me to encourage carryover of skills into a child's daily life, including home, school and community environments. Repetition is key to learning, so daily practice is essential. I greatly appreciate inquisitive parents who want to learn how they can incorporate communication goals into a variety of contexts.