

From the Editor

Support "National Better Hearing and Speech Month"

Elnita Ostrom Stanley

Suggested Citation

Stanley, E. O. (1980). Support "National Better Hearing and Speech Month". *International Journal of Oral Myology*, 6(2), 24.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52010/ijom.1980.6.2.1>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).

The views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the International Association of Orofacial Myology (IAOM). Identification of specific products, programs, or equipment does not constitute or imply endorsement by the authors or the IAOM. The journal in which this article appears is hosted on [Digital Commons](https://digitalcommons.com), an Elsevier platform.

EDITORIAL

Support "National Better Hearing and Speech Month"

Twenty-two million Americans suffer from a hearing or speech disorder. The major chronic disability in the United States is said to be hearing impairment affecting 14.5 million persons, including three million school-age children. From one-third to one-half of the over 65-year population is thought to suffer some hearing loss. Speech impairments are found in approximately three-and-a-half million youngsters between the ages of four and seven years (Sertoma Foundation).

The Sertoma Foundation of Birmingham, Alabama, has undertaken an enormous publicity campaign to familiarize citizens in all states with

the urgency of getting help to speech-, language-, and hearing-handicapped individuals. Since many of the patients treated by oral myologists and dentists demonstrate speech and language handicaps, it is appropriate that we, also, give strong support to the "Better Hearing and Speech Month" program this May.

In his January, 1980, Editorial for the *Journal of Dentistry for Children*, George W. Teuscher stressed the importance of language skills. He wrote:

Language is necessary in communication with our peers and with the public. Clarity and precision of language are essential to effective communication . . . Without the

skills of language, we cannot analyze basic ideas and new propositions. Furthermore, without the skills of language, we cannot form ideas and propositions (JDC, 47:1, p. 16).

Children and adults who are deficient in communication skills suffer denial of social, vocational, and educational opportunities. Let us endeavor to educate more and more people to an understanding of communication impairments, and let us all work harder at our professions to give all speech-, language-, and hearing-impaired individuals a chance for a productive life.

Elvita Stanley