

**Meet the Provider: Maggi Simpson, M.S., CCC-SLP**  
**Interviewed by David R. Parker, Ph.D.**

*What is your role at CRG?*

I am the Speech and Language Therapist for the practice.

*What types of services do you provide?*

I provide testing and evaluation of speech and language skills, both for my clients and to support a school's team-based decision making by contributing to Independent Education Evaluations (IEE's).

I also provide comprehensive speech and language therapy services, including early intervention, parent education, home-based and clinic therapy, group therapy, and consultation for families of children and adolescents ages birth to 21.

The specific therapy services I provide for young children (birth to 3) include:

- coaching parents in baby sign and language facilitation techniques
- early intervention for 0-5 year olds with delayed communication skills
- teaching play, looking, and listening skills
- teaching imitation skills to non-verbal toddlers
- language focused parent/child Interaction Therapy
- therapeutic play sessions for children with mild to moderate learning difficulty, language difficulty or developmental delay.

I provide the following services for older children and adults:

- individualized articulation/speech therapy
- language enrichment for vocabulary and language development
- fluency (stuttering) therapy
- teaching verbal and written narrative skills for language development
- individualized language therapy for receptive and expressive language disorders
- social communication skills
- pragmatic language skills

*Describe some of the more typical clients who would come to see you at CRG.*

Primarily, I work with toddlers, children and adolescents who have difficulty with some aspect of communication. I see mostly young children who aren't meeting typical developmental milestones in the areas of play, listening, paying attention, interaction with others and communication. It is very important that these children are referred for early intervention so that any underlying difficulty, such as autism, sensory-processing disorder, or apraxia can be identified as early as possible. Appropriate therapeutic intervention at this age can help to increase the child's functional skills and reduce the significant impact that these types of disorders can have on social and communication development.

I also see a number of children and adolescents who are struggling in school due to speech or communication difficulties, such as finding it difficult to follow verbal directions, understand language, use appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure, communicate ideas using higher-level language skills, or communicate successfully with their peers. "Higher-level language skills" refer to those skills that go beyond basic vocabulary, word form, and grammar skills, and are critical to academic and

social success. Examples include developing an advanced vocabulary, understanding word relationships, paraphrasing, reasoning, predicting, inference and developing the ability to look at things from another individual's perspective. Children with higher-level language disorders often have difficulty with verbal sequencing, determining cause and effect, making inferences, and understanding and using figurative language.

I have worked with a number of foster and adoptive families, twins, children with Down's syndrome, autistic spectrum disorders, and other congenital disorders. I work with vulnerable families, and am currently working towards accreditation from the Indiana Association for Infant and Toddler Mental Health for the work I do with families and young children.

*Briefly, what is your professional background? How have these degrees and/or experiences prepared you for the work you do today?*

I am dual licensed in the State of Indiana. I am licensed as a Teacher (Communication Disorders) for grades P-12 as well as a Master's level Speech and Language Pathologist, with my certificate of clinical competence (CCC-SLP) from the [American Speech Hearing Association](#). I have over 10 years of clinical experience working with children, families, and educators across clinical, hospital, behavioral, community and early intervention services settings. I have undertaken specialist postgraduate training in early intervention through the [Hanan Centre](#) and am certified to provide parent training in early intervention. As a credentialed [First Steps Therapist](#), I have extensive experience working with young children and their families and providing therapeutic programs that can be incorporated into everyday activities, routines and environments.

My clinical experience has reinforced my belief that early intervention, parent education, and working in partnership with families is critical to achieving the best outcomes for children. I've been privileged to work with some amazing families over the years. I've seen huge gains in some children when their families are given the education and tools necessary to work with them. I've also seen some parents and caregivers develop and grow into amazing therapists.

*What do you most enjoy about your work so far at CRG?*

Everything! I work with a team of dedicated professionals, a great support team, and we are all passionately working towards the same goal, which is to provide quality services to the clients we serve. Empowering families to meet the needs of their children and giving them the right tools at the right time can make a real difference. I am driven by my knowledge that I make a difference in the lives of the children and families I serve. In the words of one of my clients, "Maggi was my biggest cheerleader; she gave me the confidence to help my child. When I was feeling overwhelmed she helped me to see that I was making a difference and that I was getting it right. I COULD help my child."

*What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work?*

I enjoy researching my family history; my ancestors are scattered across the globe. I am heavily involved with my youngest son's Cub Scout pack. I love to be outside, walking, camping, hiking, at the coast, in the forest, up a mountain, anywhere where I can enjoy the peace and tranquility of nature. Sadly this is a passion my husband

doesn't share, but I'm working on him!

Read more about Maggi on [CRG's Website](#).