

Happy September! With the start of a new school year, we felt it was a good time to introduce ourselves, and talk a little about what we do in the Speech office. Debbie Maund is the Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) here at Elsipogtog School, along with her own clinic in Moncton. Melissa Page is a Rehabilitation Assistant under Debbie's supervision. Together we see kids who are having difficulties with speech (articulation) as well as language (grammar, syntax, storytelling, understanding directions, etc.).

## EET (Expanding Expression Tool)

You may have noticed our door as you walked by the office, and wondered what the colourful caterpillar has to do with speech & language. Our answer: everything! This caterpillar is part of the Expanding Expression Tool (or EET) that we use with many of our kids. It is used to improve oral and written language, and can easily be used in your classroom as well. If you haven't seen him yet, come meet our caterpillar!

So how do we use the caterpillar to improve language? Each colourful circle represents a question you can ask about the subject you're trying to talk about. So for example, if you asked a kid to describe an apple, they might say that it's a red fruit. Using the EET, here are the questions that the kid would answer:

- Green—Group: *What group does it belong to? **Food, Fruit***
- Blue—Do: *What does it do? or What do you do with it? **It grows on trees. You eat it. You pick it.***
- What does it look like? ***It's red, it's round, it's smaller than my hand.***
- What is it made of? ***It grows from a seed.***
- Pink—Parts: *What parts does it have? **It has a stem, a leaf, skin and seeds.***
- White—Where?: *Where do you find it? or Where does it come from? **It grows on trees. You find it in a grocery store.***
- What else do you know? ***You can make juice and pies with it.***



Throughout the fall, come visit our door to see different fall items that you can describe using the EET caterpillar. You'll be amazed at how descriptive your students can be!

Watch our future newsletters for upcoming language challenges and keep an eye out for kids coming back into your classroom with information to share! If you have any questions or are in need of SLP support for your students, please stop by!