



# San Diego Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center

*Helping children in San Diego since 1981*

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## **ADMISSION GUIDELINES**

*Revised July 2011*

The purpose of the Scottish Rite Center is to serve as many children, ages 2 to 12, in the San Diego area whose primary presenting problem is a speech and language disorder. In keeping with statewide Scottish Rite Center guidelines, we are unable to accept children who have a diagnosis of Mental Retardation, Deafness, Cerebral Palsy or Autism.

The following guidelines assist us in effectively serving as many children as possible.

1. The entry criteria for enrollment are significant speech and/or language disorders. Children who meet these criteria will be admitted for a maximum of an 18-month period as long as they are not receiving adequate speech therapy elsewhere. Therapy may be extended for an additional 6-month period (to a 2-year maximum) at the discretion of the Center Coordinator.
2. Children will not be enrolled at this Center if, at the time that their name comes to the top of the Wait List, they are receiving therapy individually and/or in a small group for at least 60 minutes per week. If so, the child's name will be placed on our inactive list. The child may be enrolled in the next available opening, without returning to the Wait List, as soon as the conditions above no longer apply. If a child who is already enrolled in this Center receives services as described above, they will be discharged from therapy and their name will be placed on the inactive list. It is the parent's responsibility to contact us when they believe their child is again eligible for enrollment here.
3. All children with questionable cognitive skills and/or diagnosis of Developmental Delay will be required to present evidence of at least low-average non-verbal intelligence. This may be in the form of a developmental evaluation from the San Diego Regional Center, Children's Hospital, a private psychologist, or the public schools. The evaluation must include at least one quantitative measure of non-verbal intelligence.
4. If a child receives a diagnosis of mental retardation or Autism after they have already been enrolled in therapy at the Scottish Rite Center, therapy must be discontinued.
5. Children with behavior issues that compromise the effectiveness of therapy will not be accepted for therapy (or will be discontinued) until such behaviors are modified. Therapy will begin (or resume) at the discretion of the treating therapist and the Center Coordinator.

**Whenever there is a question about the appropriateness of therapy here, the child's readiness for therapy, or the prognosis for success, children will be enrolled for a three-month trial period. If significant progress is made during this period, therapy will be continued as deemed appropriate by the treating therapist.**

**For all children enrolled in the Center, the staff at the Scottish Rite Center will act as a child advocate and assist the parents in finding the best school programs for the children. However, in no case will Scottish Rite Staff be put into a position where they are asked to evaluate a teacher's performance or rate one program over another. We will be of help only in recommending desired programs and objectives and directing the parent on how best to achieve these goals.**