1. **Hanen – It Takes Two to Talk!**

ISTAR has another new offering - the “Hanen: It Takes Two To Talk” program. *It Takes Two To Talk* provides family-centered early language intervention to parents and caregivers of young children. This program empowers caregivers to become their child’s primary language facilitator. As a result, language intervention then occurs in naturalistic contexts and on a frequent and ongoing basis, thereby optimizing the child’s ability to develop improved language skills.

The efficacy of *It Takes Two To Talk* is well documented in research literature. Studies using randomized controlled trials have evaluated changes in the parents’ interactive behaviour, as well as changes in the children’s social and language skills. Parent changes include being more responsive to their child and using less complex language input. Changes in the child include social gains, larger vocabularies and gains in speech sound development.

If you require further information or know a family that would benefit from this program, please contact us at istar@ualberta.ca.

2. **Upcoming Communication Improvement Workshops**

ISTAR began offering communication improvement workshops in early 2011. These specialized group modules were held on weekends for those who want to improve specific areas of their communication. We are thrilled with the response from the community! The *Accent Reduction* workshop was an instant sell-out with more than 30 people putting their names on the waiting list, and we held the *Public Speaking / Intelligibility of Speech* workshop two times.

Each workshop includes practice and individualized feedback by a certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Suggestions to help participants continue to make improvements in their speech or to help them maintain the gains they have made will be given at the end of the workshop. All communication improvement sessions fall under the category of “speech therapy”, allowing them to be covered by insurance plans where applicable.

The upcoming workshops are noted below. We expect the sessions to fill up very quickly. If you know of someone who could benefit from these services, please have them contact us at istar@ualberta.ca!

1. **Academic Preparation**
   Dates: October 13 & 20 *(participants are expected to attend both sessions)*
   Time: 6:00- 9:00 PM
   Cost: $300
This workshop is designed to assist individuals in preparing for academic presentations, including class presentations, demonstrations and thesis defenses. Participants will learn strategies to improve their presentation skills as well as increase their comfort and confidence with public speaking in an academic setting.

2. Accent Reduction
   Dates: November 10 & 17 (participants are expected to attend both sessions)
   Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
   Cost: $300

This workshop is designed for participants who are English as a second language learners, or who are native English speakers from other countries, and who wish to increase their intelligibility through reduction of their accent. It is not designed to be a workshop to learn the English language. General instruction about how to produce the English sounds and how to reduce speech rate for improved intelligibility will be provided.

3. Effective Communication
   Dates: December 6 & 8 (participants are expected to attend both sessions)
   Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
   Cost: $300

This workshop is designed for participants who wish to improve the intelligibility of their speech. Participants in this workshop may be required to do public speaking as part of their profession or hobby or they may be in professions in which they are frequently speaking to clients or customers. This workshop is for those who may benefit from speaking more clearly and would like to increase their comfort with public speaking, group discussions or one-on-one conversations. Participants will choose from one of two sessions on December 8 - The Art of Conversation and Public Speaking.

3. Cool technology

1. New SpeechEasy model

   mySpeech, a pocket-sized fluency device for people who stutter, is the newest member of the SpeechEasy family. As with all SpeechEasy models, mySpeech simulates the “choral speech effect” by using altered auditory feedback. What makes this particular model so exciting is that the user has full control over the delayed auditory and frequency auditory feedback settings. These settings can be changed at any time depending on the environment the user is in or how the speech sounds on any given day. mySpeech also allows the user to save two separate, customized delay and pitch settings that can be changed with the press of a button. It comes with a Bluetooth option to eliminate the need for cords and wired ear buds.

   Contact ISTAR at 780-492-2619 or istar@ualberta.ca for more information.

2. Fluency apps

   There are scores of fluency applications and computer programs available for download or purchase. Here we highlight just two of them, the “Fluency rater” and the “Fluency tracker”, both available for purchase online for less than $10. Note: ISTAR does not endorse these products. This information is provided for reference only.
Fluency rater

This application is designed to accurately and easily calculate the SPM (syllables per minute) and %SS (percentage of stuttered syllables) of multiple clients. Created by one of ISTAR’s clients for use by professional and student speech therapists and their clients.
http://www.forfluency.com

Fluency tracker© iPhone application
The developer of this application describes it as “an application designed for individuals who stutter and parents of children who stutter. Fluency tracker is the application that will complement the services of speech therapists in making progress towards a more fluent speech, positive feelings about speech, and reducing avoidance behaviors that are associated with stuttering.” Read a good review by the British Stammering Association:

4. **Join ISTAR at an Edmonton Oil Kings’ hockey game!**

We just made your Christmas shopping easier!

Help ISTAR to help more clients – buy tickets to an Edmonton Oil Kings hockey game. For just $20, you receive a voucher for $25 which can be used for *any game in the hockey season* (September 2011 – March 2012). You have a great night of fun and ISTAR gets $5 for each voucher sold – it’s a win-win situation!

To purchase your vouchers, please contact us at istar@ualberta.ca or 780-492-2619.

5. **International Stuttering Awareness Day – October 22, 2011!**

International Stuttering Awareness Day (ISAD) has been celebrated since 1998 as a joint venture between ASHA, ISA, IFA and ELSA. The day is intended to raise the public awareness of the millions of people who stutter across the globe. People who stutter share their stories, special events are held to inform the public, and there is a lot of media coverage worldwide.

The ISAD theme for 2011 is “Sharing Stories, Changing Perceptions”. Starting October 1, SLPs can participate in an online conference that can be used towards your CEUs. Click here for more information: http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/isadarchive/onlineconference.html

**Can We Have Your Email?** ISTAR continues to collect the email addresses for our colleagues for the purpose of sending informative messages such as this one. Our goal is to help other speech-language professionals to improve their knowledge of stuttering. Please send your preferred email address to istar@ualberta.ca and we will be sure to add you to our mailing list! Use “Add me to your SLP distribution list” in the subject line.

*Your privacy is our responsibility. You have received this message because you provided ISTAR with your email address. The information gathered by ISTAR is used for the purpose of administering and supporting our programs and will be protected and used in compliance with Alberta’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Individuals who submit information to ISTAR acknowledge the above and consent to the collection of personal*
information. If you have any questions or concerns about your personal record or would like to limit the kinds of contact you receive, please contact us at (780) 492-2619 or istar@ualberta.ca.