

From: Stephanie Crawford
To: [PUC.RSPE](#)
Subject: Question about eligibility for speech-generating devices
Date: Thursday, July 26, 2018 12:19:12 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a speech pathologist in the community working with young children, and I'm wondering about the strictness of your eligibility criteria of age 4. Unfortunately, I hadn't noticed that until a parent brought it to my attention after I had already recommended that she look into your program. I'm working with her child who will turn 3 in two days. He has apraxia of speech and has made a lot of progress with his speech since being introduced to a speech-generating device 2 months ago. However, he is still very difficult to understand especially on the phone when attempting to communicate with his grandparents who recently stayed with him for an extended period of time.

I would predict that with continued services this child will be able to communicate intelligibly with speech in another year or two so he would likely need this device only as a loan for a limited time and would then be able to give it back to your program. We looked into pursuing funding through his insurance, but the family would be responsible for 10% of the device cost + \$400 which is a lot of money for something that he might only need for a year.

I realize 3 years old is young (especially to be communicating by telephone) and that you probably have that cutoff for a reason, but I'm hoping that you might be able to make an exception for a child who could really benefit from short-term access to a speech-generating device.

Thank you for your consideration,

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