

Dear Speech-Language Pathologist-

Do you know a child in your school who doesn't speak or barely whispers?

This child could be suffering from an anxiety disorder called selective mutism. SM is widespread but often misdiagnosed and under diagnosed. You, as a speech-language pathologist, are a very important person in our effort to educate about selective mutism. Chances are, if there is a child in your school or area who doesn't speak, you will probably hear about him or her.

I work with a non-profit organization called the Selective Mutism Group-Childhood Anxiety Network (SMG-CAN.) We'd like to take this opportunity to give you some information on identifying characteristics of selectively mute children, and some ideas on working with them effectively. We hope the enclosed information helps! Another great resource is the SMG-CAN website, www.selectivemutism.org. Thanks for being part of our effort to "speak out for our children!" Please contact me with any questions!

Sincerely,

Gretchen Aerni
SMG-CAN Connections
Kansas Coordinator