



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

October 12, 2017

Ms. Tina Rocco
President
American Hippotherapy Association
P.O. Box 2014
Fort Collins, CO 80522

Dear Ms. Rocco:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write with respect to the treatment technique known as hippotherapy.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 191,500 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students.

While ASHA does not endorse particular treatment programs, products, or procedures, hippotherapy is one of many treatment techniques that may be used by speech-language pathologists (SLPs), provided that SLPs have the necessary education, training, and expertise, and abide by the profession's Code of Ethics. Hippotherapy may be used by SLPs as an approach to meet designated communication or swallowing treatment goals as part of a larger plan of care. As with all treatment techniques, ASHA maintains that it is the clinician's responsibility to justify the choice of using hippotherapy, and how it meets the goals of each individual. ASHA strongly encourages its members to use treatments and methods that have a strong evidence base.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Paul, ASHA's director of clinical issues in speech-language pathology, at dpaul@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Gail J. Richard, PhD, CCC-SLP
2017 ASHA President