

BUSINESS PLAN

Speech Language Pathology Center

BY PAUL E. KANDARIAN | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Speech communication is something most of us take for granted. But with technology used by the Speech Language Pathology Center in Norwell and Hanson, communication skills can be learned by those with a range of communication disorders, including autism patients, said Tammy Taylor, who founded the center in 2009 and is a nationally recognized instructor and speaker in the profession. The center recently adopted its newest technology, OperaVOX, which brings advanced voice quality analysis capability to iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touches. We asked Taylor about the center.

Q. How did you come to start this business?

A. I was a speech pathologist in local schools and started to see patients on my own, and wanted to follow them through, start to finish, as opposed to a school system

where you don't have the opportunity to finish the cycle. And I wanted to specialize in certain areas that don't get much exposure in school, such as pediatric feeding, which is under the realm of speech therapy.

Q. What are the most popular technologies you use?

A. iPad applications. That takes up the lion's share of our time, learning new technology and methods of using them in sessions. For example, if someone is in for speech therapy for articulation, we may use it for visual or auditory feedback so they can see and hear themselves, and right up to someone who's nonverbal and using the iPad to string text words or picture words together to form sentences to get their needs met.

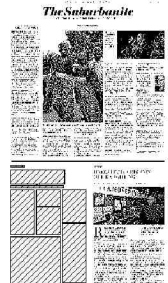
Q. What about your newest technology, the OperaVOX application?

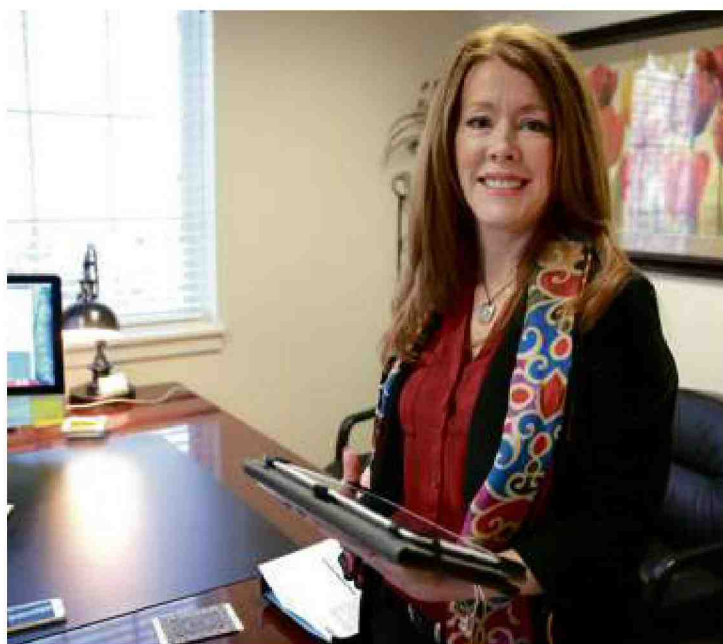
A. It enables us to analyze pitch and voice stability, while offering the patients the opportunity to check their progress between therapy sessions. It has value for speech and language pathologists as well as ear-nose-and-throat physicians looking for before-and-after measurements for surgery purposes.

Q. Your work has received some pretty notable recognition, hasn't it?

A. Yes, in 2011, we were part of a "60 Minutes" segment on "Apps for Autism." . . . It featured one of my patients, a 26-year-old who up until he got an iPad could only communicate through vowels. With the technology, he could communicate how much he loved history, and have full conversations with people.

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JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Tammy Taylor started her pathology center in 2009.