

HOW TO SUBMIT

SEND NEWS TO Donna Whitehead, 370 Paramount Drive, Unit 3, Raynham, MA 02767;
EMAIL mansfield@wickedlocal.com or **FAX** to 508-967-3501.

whitehead@wickedlocal.com or 508-967-3510.

MEET YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS | By Heather Harris | hharris@wickedlocal.com

Small Talk Therapy

EXTRA
IN YOUR PAPER

Jennifer Higgins is the owner of Small Talk Therapy, a private speech and language therapy business in Mansfield. Higgins has a bachelor's in elementary education/psychology from Stonehill College and a master's in speech and language pathology from Northeastern University. She lives with her husband Tom and their three daughters, Lillian, 5, Kathleen, 3, and Charlotte, 6 months.

How did you get on this career path? I have always loved working with children. My youngest sister had speech therapy when she was in elementary school and I had observed some of her therapy sessions. I was very interested in the techniques the therapist used. After graduate school I worked in early intervention and in the Attleboro Public Schools. I really love working directly with families in their homes. I started Small Talk Therapy in 2006 after my oldest daughter was born.

What sort of services do you provide? I provide private speech and language therapy sessions for children in their homes. All therapy sessions are one-to-one. This provides the children with the best opportunity to reach the goals that we (the parents and I) have set for them.

What do you like most about your job?

I love the relationships that I develop with the families. I see the clients in their homes so the parents are able to observe my sessions and I am able to talk with the family after each session. We talk about their child's goals and what activities can be done at home to help with the carryover of skills. The children I see are comfortable in our sessions since they in their own home. I can incorporate their games/toys into the therapy activities to practice the speech sounds or language skills we are targeting.

What are some of the challenges you face with your job?

Scheduling can be difficult at times. I want to see all my clients at their ideal time so I often need to juggle my schedule.

If someone wanted to start a career in this line of work, what advice would you give them?

If someone is interested in speech and language therapy I would suggest that they try to observe a Speech-Language Pathologist at work. This will give them a good idea of what is involved in a typical therapy session. Speech-Language Pathologists are trained to work with clients from infancy to geriatrics in a variety of settings, such as private prac-



Speech therapist Jennifer Higgins, owner of Small Talk Therapy, working with one of her clients. COURTESY PHOTO

tices, schools, hospitals, and nursing homes.

How can people learn more, how do they get in touch with you?

To learn more about me or Small Talk Therapy you can check out my website at www.smalltalktherapy2006.com. I can be reached by phone at 508-208-3354 or by e-mail at smalltalktherapy2006@yahoo.com

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Contact editor Donna Whitehead at dwhitehead@wickedlocal.com.