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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TLC SPEAKS OUT ABOUT COMMUNICATION DISORDERS IN RECOGNITION OF BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Rockville, MD, April 23, 2004 – The Treatment and Learning Centers, a non-profit organization, which helps typically developing children and children and adults with a wide range of disabilities, today announced that they would be hosting events throughout the month of May to celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month and to communicate important information about hearing and speech. Since 1927, May has been designated as Better Hearing and Speech Month, a time to raise awareness about hearing, speech, or language disorders that affect one in six Americans. Untreated, these problems can limit you at home, school, and work. Anyone, of any age, can have or develop an impairment of the ability to hear, speak, or understand effectively. With the proper treatment, most people can eliminate or minimize the effects of communication disorders.

“Communication is essential for a productive fulfilling life,” said Dr. Patricia Ritter, Assistant Executive Director at TLC and licensed speech-language pathologist. “Recognizing Better Hearing and Speech Month gives professionals in the field of speech-language pathology and audiology the opportunity to raise awareness in the community and to help individuals with communication disorders improve their quality of life.”

TLC will kick off a month long celebration with a workshop from TLC’s Professional Workshop Series on Tuesday, May 18th “Social Skills from A Language Perspective” presented by Dr. Emily Kinsler. This workshop will be help from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and the cost is \$25.00 per person. Free speech-language screenings will be offered to children ages 3-14 and hearing screenings to ages 3 & up on Monday, May 24th by appointment only. On Wednesday, May 26th Dr. Patricia Ritter will be presenting a free parent workshop “Language Development in Young Children” from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Reservations are required for these events due to limited appointments and seating. For more information, please call 301-424-5200 ext. 147.

The Speech-Language Department at TLC will also offer two summer camp programs, a speech-language day camp and the Fast ForWord™ language program. The speech-language day camp program is for children ages 3-6 who have a primary deficit in the speech and language area. The classes are lead by a licensed, speech-language pathologist in a small group setting. The Fast ForWord™ is a computer-based method for building skills necessary for language and reading competence in children. This summer program is for children ages 5-14. For additional information about either program, please call 301-424-5200, ext. 144.

About TLC

The Treatment and Learning Centers, located in Rockville, Maryland, enables children and adults to develop to their full potential, to communicate effectively with others, and to achieve educational and vocational success. TLC provides services that strengthen their abilities and respond to their changing needs. With over 53 years of service to the community, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in our care and will strive to assist all, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information call 301-424-5200 or visit www.ttlc.org.

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