

A Very Special Honor



Ms. Maura Lazzara has been the speech pathologist at Kittatinny since 2004. Each year the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association holds a convention. This year, they will be recognizing Ms. Lazzara for her work with a very special student named David who taught her so much.

David was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and was nonverbal when he met Ms. Lazzara. While working with David, she came to realize that David loved to draw. His drawing became his means of communication. She could give him a sentence and David would draw a picture for that sentence.

PuppyDucks™ became the official name for David's characters. With a little help from his family and friends, David's book entitled "Look at Me, Look at Me" can be found on Amazon and at Barnes and Nobles.

The theme of this year's convention is "Imagine More." As Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

Ms. Lazzara stated, "One of the most valuable things I learned was when you can recognize what your student is passionate about, it opens the door to communication." Add David's imaginative PuppyDucks™, a supportive community, and voilà, David has a published book and has been working as a cartoonist and illustrator. David has drawn illustrations for recently published books such as *The Very Determined Dragonfly*, *The Charlie and Nana Cookbook* series, and *Say it with Sound: Hum, Harmonize and Heal*.

ASHA has over 204,000 members and affiliates. She is one of three members to receive this special acknowledgement. Congratulations, Ms. Lazzara on this recognition by your peers.

