



PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA – FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
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## **New voice lab at Driscoll Children's Hospital includes suite of modern equipment**

CORPUS CHRISTI – For a speech language pathologist like Christine Carter, it is a dream come true to acquire brand new equipment that can help her teach children to orally communicate better. That was the case recently when Driscoll Children's Hospital obtained an endoscopy tower and a nasometer, both of which allow Carter to measure and adjust a patient's speech. The instruments are part of Driscoll's new voice lab.

"It's exciting," Carter said. "We want to get the word out to our area physicians about what we can do for their patients."

Physicians, voice professionals and the media are invited to an open house in the voice lab on June 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Carter is looking forward to demonstrating use of the new equipment for those who attend.

The nasometer includes a headset with a microphone and a laptop computer, on which the patient reads a story while features of voice and resonance are measured. The

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nasometer is a tool that measures oral versus nasal airflow and gives visual feedback to monitor speaking volume. The nasometer is used in therapy to address voice and resonance problems stemming from various etiologies, but at Driscoll, it is primarily used for children with cleft palate.

The voice lab's new endoscopy tower includes several instruments for measuring voice, speech, and swallowing. Nasal endoscopy, stroboscopy, voice analysis, endoscopic swallowing studies and velopharyngeal incompetency (VPI) studies can all be performed. Nasal endoscopy involves inserting a thin tube with a tiny camera into the nasal passage to view the anatomy and function of voice and resonance production.

Perhaps the most impressive feature of the endoscopy tower is the stroboscopy function. The rigid strobe, or small camera, is inserted deep into the mouth to view the vocal folds in motion. The vibrating vocal folds are displayed on a monitor for the speech language pathologist to view and study. The endoscopy tower enables Carter to obtain objective measures and copy the actual studies to a DVD that can be evaluated by the child's referring physician.

"This equipment allows for better accuracy in diagnosis, efficient and specific therapy and better care for the patient all around," Carter said.

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- **What:** Voice lab open house for physicians, voice professionals and the media
- **When:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 22
- **Where:** Driscoll Children's Hospital, 3533 S. Alameda St.

**About Driscoll Children's Hospital...**

*"Improve the health of adults and you give them back their health...  
Improve the health of children and you give them their life."*

Driscoll Children's Hospital is a 189-bed pediatric tertiary care center with pediatric specialists representing 32 medical and 13 surgical specialties offering care throughout South Texas, including Corpus Christi, the Rio Grande Valley, Victoria and Laredo. Each year, more than 100,000 children receive care through Driscoll, including the 40,000 patients seen at South Texas' first emergency room created specifically for pediatrics.

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