

## Episode 75: Overcoming Imposter Syndrome as a Speech Language Pathologist

During the second interview with medical speech-language pathologist Maggie Donaker, she takes us through some of the challenging aspects of her career. She also shares advice for new and transitioning SLPs and shares what advice she'd give her younger self.

### Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. What do you wish you did differently in your speech career?
2. Who is one of the most challenging patients you remember working with?
3. How do you deal with a patient who has a degenerative disease and is not going to be making gains? Any words of wisdom there?
4. Can you share a story about a memorable patient or setting?
5. What are some words of advice someone gave you that you didn't follow?
6. If you could go back and talk to your clinical-fellow self, what words of advice would you give her?
7. What words of advice do you have for the speech pathologist who suffers from imposter syndrome or has that fear?

### Quote of the Conversation

*"Here's how I compensate for [imposter syndrome]. If it's a pep talk in the mirror, you're doing a great job. Pausing throughout the day. You know what, I'm studying for this test. This is kind of tough, but I'm moving through it."*

-Maggie Donaker M.S. CCC-SLP

### Maggie Donaker M.S. CCC-SLP

*Medical Speech-Language Pathologist*

Maggie Donaker, a Medical Speech-Language Pathologist, is a graduate of Ohio University (BS) and Bowling Green State University (MS). She has 10 years of knowledge and clinical expertise within the acute and subacute healthcare settings.



Maggie serves as Director of Operations for Dysphagia Outreach Project, where she leads the nationwide distribution of supplies from the organization's Dysphagia Food Bank. She is a 7 time ASHA ACE Award winner and is the primary facilitator of the only swallow support group in FL supported by NFOSD, Dysphagia Digest of Florida. Maggie is a respected

presenter, educator and considers herself to be a passionate learner who believes that a sense of humor will always go a long way when working to form a personal connection with the individuals that she serves.

## Keep the Conversation Going

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[FreshSLP.com](#). Let's make those connections. You got this!

*Do you have a question you'd like answered on the show?  
Interested in sharing your experience as an SLP with our audience?*

*Send a message to [Mattie@FreshSLP.com](mailto:Mattie@FreshSLP.com)!*

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