

## **Eli's Rehab Report**

### **News Briefs: ASHA Tackles Special Needs Personnel Shortages**

For organizations that are short on school-based speech-language pathologists and audiologists, a new Web site is here to help. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the National Coalition on Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services launched the Web site <http://www.specialedpros.com>, which addresses personnel shortages of special needs children educators, announced a Sept. 11 news release from ASHA. The site also helps educators recruit and retain qualified personnel.

Currently, less than 20 percent of the 17.5 million children and youth in need of mental health services receive care, while shortages continue to grow, ASHA pointed out. Information on the site is geared toward administrators, school officials, policymakers, and others interested in addressing staff shortages in special education and related student services. Specialedpros.com provides ratio data concerning specialized instructional support services personnel.

The site also includes current data on supply and demand across the special education and student services professions, certification and licensure requirements, model job descriptions, advocacy materials, and related resources.