



Confident Voices

**Builds Confidence,
Communication, and
Community**

SHARE YOUR VOICE AND CREATIVITY

SAY's Confident Voices program is a free, innovative after-school and weekend program for young people who stutter, ages 8-18, in New York City. It is designed to encourage young people who stutter to develop the self-confidence and courage they need to communicate more effectively, build a sense of community, and establish rewarding, long-lasting friendships.

Since 2001, this project-based creative arts program has helped kids and teens who stutter develop essential skills and tools, providing a unique forum for them to express their thoughts, ideas, and dreams freely.



"Before joining SAY, our son wasn't fully participating in school. After a few months at SAY, his teachers noticed a big difference. Now, he's beaming with confidence. What a change."

— SAY Parent



BUILD CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS TO THRIVE

Utilizing a broad range of effective program formats to build communication skills and self-confidence, our creative staff helps kids and teens safely expand their comfort zones.

Building on each child's individual strengths, interests, and communication goals, we offer a highly individualized experience to maximize results. Our Confident Voices program encourages kids and teens to collaborate on key creative projects.

Working together to achieve common goals, young people learn how to build social-emotional skills, communication skills, and succeed as part of a dynamic team.



"Having a stutter makes me different and sometimes other kids pick on me and bully me. I texted two friends from SAY for support and they responded in less than a minute. SAY has become a second home. It's a place where you will never be bullied."

— SAY Participant

COMMUNITY AWAITS

At SAY, all creative arts programs are offered **free of charge**. Our weekly sessions take place in a professional rehearsal studio in Midtown Manhattan, where many Broadway shows prepare for the stage. Easily accessible by subway and bus, our studio is filled with light, energy, and encouragement. It's a place where kids and teens who stutter can gather, create, and shine.

Participants build a powerful support network, forming life-long friendships that continue to grow season after season. Each program culminates in a final presentation—sometimes in an off-Broadway theater, where young people can share their voices with family and friends.



Participant Reuben and Artistic Director Travis Robertson accepting the prestigious award from Jane Chu, the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

AWARDED NATION'S TOP HONOR

In November 2017, Confident Voices participant Reuben and Artistic Director Travis Robertson visited Washington to accept the nation's top honor—the **2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award**. This award recognizes the country's best creative youth development programs that utilize the arts and humanities to generate a broad range of successes, including increased academic achievement, high school graduation rates, and college enrollments.

MEET THE TEAM



TRAVIS ROBERTSON

Artistic Director

Travis is a person who stutters with a background of being a professional actor for more than a decade, performing in award-winning Broadway productions of the Book of Mormon, Hairspray, Mamma Mia, and South Pacific. He started his incredible journey with SAY in 2002, formally becoming a Teaching Artist in 2008. His various positions have allowed him to gain valuable perspectives on the implementation and impact of the work of SAY. He currently serves as the Artistic Director and a member of the Board of Trustees.



DANIELLE LENEÉ

Programming Associate

Danielle is an award-winning actress, performer, and supporter of all things SAY. Danielle has performed on various stages, receiving recognition in the New York Times for Off-Broadway performance and awarded Best Supporting Actress in a Play in the Philadelphia Annual Barrymore Awards. Danielle joined the SAY family in 2011 as a Camp Counselor and hasn't looked back since. She has been a proud ally of SAY for over a decade and couldn't imagine her life without this community.

MORE SAY PROGRAMS



SAY: DC

SAY: DC is a free, mixed-age, creative arts program focused on self-expression, collaboration, and connection for ages 5-18. SAY: DC programs leverage the power of listening, art-making, and community to open up new worlds of possibility for each participant. Participants build confidence, communication skills, and lasting friendships.

CAMP SAY

Camp SAY is an ACA-accredited, 2-week summer camp for young people who stutter, ages 8-18. Kids and teens who stutter have endless fun while building confidence and independence, improving communication skills, and forming lifelong friendships. Campers feel free to express themselves without fear or ridicule and have as much time as they need to speak.

SAY: SPEECH



SAY's speech therapy program is led by speech-language pathologist and board-certified stuttering specialist Brooke Leiman Edwards, MA, CCC-SLP, BCS-SCF. It embraces a holistic approach to stuttering therapy that addresses the individual needs and goals of each child and family. We currently offer speech services to families all over DC, MD, and NY, ages 3-18.

THE MY STUTTER PROJECT

The My Stutter Project offers an online space for young people who stutter to make friends with others who understand what they're going through, have a creative outlet, and learn new ways of advocating for themselves. This online program offers community, support, and creative workshops for young people who stutter worldwide.

ABOUT SAY

SAY: The Stuttering Association for the Young is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides support, advocacy, and life-changing experiences for young people who stutter, ages 3-18. For over 20 years, SAY has offered comprehensive and innovative programs that address the physical, social, and emotional impacts of stuttering. Through summer camp, regional day camps, speech therapy, and creative arts programming, SAY builds a community of acceptance, friendship, and encouragement where kids and teens who stutter can develop the confidence and communication skills they need to thrive. We are committed to breaking down barriers to participation, which is why our school-year programming is offered **free of charge**.



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