

Metro East Therapy, Inc., in Edwardsville launches practice with connections from SBDC

by Megan Wieser
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EDWARDSVILLE - After focusing on early intervention with students in the city of St. Louis, speech pathologist **Maggie Block** is now providing individualized therapy for **Edwardsville-area clients** through her practice, [Metro East Therapy Inc.](#)

Block's practice analyzes, investigates, addresses, treats and helps to prevent an array of disorders related to speech. These disorders exist anywhere within the realm of articulation, receptive and expressive language, voice, fluency, behavior or social language. "I truly love to work with the struggling reader, including individuals with dyslexia," she said.

In late 2015, the speech language pathologist sought expertise from the Illinois Metro East Small Business Development Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Although skilled as a pathologist, launching a business was a new experience for Block.

"I knew the field of speech language pathology, but I did not at the time consider myself a businesswoman," she said. "I needed someone to guide me through the process of starting my own practice."

SBDC Interim Director and Small Business Specialist Jo Ann DiMaggio May met with Block, helping Block fine-tune her business plan and connecting her with experts in the fields of law, accounting and more. May continued following up with Block to ensure she had the resources she needed to successfully launch her Edwardsville-based practice.

"Jo Ann worked diligently with me, making sure my questions were answered and I had the people I needed to help me every step of the way," Block said. "She even helped me with networking opportunities and leads on office space. The SBDC is an invaluable resource for anyone who is preparing to start a business. On February 1, I celebrated one year in business. In March, I will start renting additional space to accommodate the growth in clients."

May said working with Block has been a rewarding experience. "Maggie was receptive to all the advice and eager to learn," she said. "My passion is to help entrepreneurs succeed. I am extremely proud of Maggie's growth as a businessperson and wish her continued success."

Metro East Therapy sees clients from birth through age 18. The practice also offers group therapy and IQ and academic testing, along with parental education. Block's clientele includes those with autism, learning disabilities, cognitive delays, physical limitations, articulation disorders, apraxia of speech, language disorders/delay, feeding difficulties, social communication difficulties, literacy challenges and fluency (stuttering) difficulties. Block has experience working with children who have sensory processing difficulties, ADHD, behavioral and social/emotional concerns.

Block's experience also includes supervising, teaching and preparing graduate students pursuing a career as a speech language pathologist at SIUE.

For more information, visit metroeasttherapy.com.

The [Illinois SBDC at SIUE](#) assists new businesses like Metro East Therapy Inc. and existing businesses headquartered in the nine-county Metro East region of Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair, Washington, Monroe and Randolph. It is a no-cost service to the community supported by the U.S. Small Business Administration, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, and [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#).

By aiding entrepreneurs and companies in defining their path to success, the SBDC network positively impacts the Metro East by strengthening the business community, creating and retaining jobs and encouraging capital investment. It enhances the region's economic interests by providing one-stop assistance to individuals by means of counseling, training, research and advocacy for new ventures and existing small businesses. When appropriate, the SBDC strives to affiliate its ties to the region to support the goals and objectives of both the [SIUE School of Business](#) and the University at large. To learn how the SBDC can help your small business, contact the Metro East SBDC at [\(618\) 650-2929](tel:6186502929) or sbdcedw@gmail.com.