

## What is an Interdental Lisp?

### A word from the OAC Speech Pathologist... What is an Interdental Lisp?

In interdental lisp is when a person tries to produce the sound “s” or “z” but it sounds more like “th”.

Instead of positioning the tip of their tongue behind their upper front teeth to make the sound, the tongue slides forward and pokes out past the front teeth.

#### **When should this stop happening?**

Children typically stop having a lisp between 3 years 6 months and 4 years of age.

#### **What can I do to help?**

If a child is already 3 years 6 months of age or older and is speaking with a lisp, you can talk to them about how to produce “s” (or in very technical speech pathology jargon, “the snake sound”) correctly. This can be done by pretending that their tongue is a snake, and that their teeth are a cage. Whenever they make a snake sound (by itself or in a word) they need to make sure that the snake stays in the cage. Then you can practice making snake sounds while “keeping the snake inside the cage” at the same time.

#### **What if this doesn’t really help?**

If the lisp is still heard in their speech after about 4 years of age, it recommended that they have an assessment and therapy with a Speech Pathologist to help correct their production of the sound.