



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

Speech- Language Pathologists in Your Child's School

What does the SLP do in schools?

- Screen students to find out if they need further speech and language testing.
- Evaluate speech and language skills.
- Decide, with the team, whether the child is eligible for services.
- Work with the team to develop an individualized education program or IEP. IEPs are written for students who qualify for services under Federal and state law. The IEP lists goals for the student.

What does the SLP do in schools?

- Help children who have feeding and swallowing problems so they can eat and drink safely during the school day.
- Work with children who are at risk for communication and learning problems.
- Determine if children need specialized instruction called response to intervention or RTI.
- Makes sure that communication goals support student's learning and social skills.
- Keeps track of progress on speech-language goals.

What does the SLP do in schools?

- Helps develop curriculum, design programs, choose textbooks and materials that helps all children learn.
- Researches ways to help children do their best in school.
- Gives resources and information to students, staff and parents to help them understand communication.

SLPs help with communication and swallowing problems that include:

- Speech sounds, also called articulation – how we say sounds and put them together in words. Children may say one sound for another, leave out a sound or have problems saying certain sounds clearly.
- Some children are not able to speak at all and need help learning other ways to communicate.

SLPs also help with:

- Language – vocabulary, concepts and grammar. Includes how well words are used and understood. Language problems can lead to reading and writing problems too.
- Social communication – how to take turns, how close to stand to someone when talking, how to start and stop a conversation and following the rules of conversation.

SLPs help with: (cont'd)

- Voice – how we sound when we speak. The voice may sound hoarse or nasal. A child may lose his/her voice easily, or may speak in a voice that's too loud, too soft, too high or too low.
- Stuttering – also called a fluency disorder is how well our speech flows. Children may have trouble starting to speak or may repeat sounds, syllables, words or phrases.

SLPs help with: (cont'd)

- Thinking and memory, also called cognitive communication – includes problems with long term or short term memory, attention, problem solving or staying organized.
- Feeding and swallowing also called dysphagia is how well we chew and swallow food and liquid. Swallowing problems can make it hard for your child do to well in school and may lead to other health problems.

How will the SLP work with my child?

What the SLP does will depend on what your child needs.

The types of services your child gets may change over time.

SLPs provide direct and indirect services.

Direct service means the SLP will:

- Work with the child one on one or in a group setting.
- Work with the child in the classroom or in a group.
- Use a combination of these approaches.

Indirect service means the SLP will:

- Watch how a child's speech and language skills are developing. This is called monitoring.
- Help parents and teachers understand how the child communicates and learns. This is called consultation.
- Give the teacher suggestions on how to include a child's speech and language goals in the classroom.

What if a child needs help?

- If a child is eligible for speech and/or language services, a meeting will be held by the school team. They will develop an individualized education program, or IEP. The IEP will list the child's speech-language goals and how often and where services will be received.
- The services will change as communication improves.

A child needs help when they:

- Are not understood by others
- Have trouble talking about thoughts or feelings
- Don't understand what others say
- Have trouble following directions
- Have problems with reading and writing
- Can't remember what was taught in class
- Don't do well on tests
- Don't understand social cues – like knowing when someone is mad or telling a joke
- Get poor grades or have difficulty in school

How to find an SLP

- Every public school has an SLP available.
- Look for an SLP who has the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).
- An ASHA certified SLP has:
 - CCC-SLP following their signature
 - a master's or doctoral degree
 - a state license or teacher certification – (check with your state)
 - participates in continuing education activities

Go to www.asha.org/findpro/ to find
an ASHA certified SLP



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This presentation is based on the ASHA brochure
*"Speech-Language Pathologists in Your Child's
School"*

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