



What does a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) do?

A Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) is a trained professional who evaluates and provides services to treat children and adults who have difficulty with speech and/or language. **Speech** consists of how you talk, including the sounds of your voice, words, coordination of the lips and tongue, and the flow of your speech. **Language** is a person's ability to understand what he/she sees and hears; as well as how someone uses language to communicate with others. Some people have difficulty organizing their words or finding the correct words in order to be understood by others. SLPs can also help individuals with oral-motor weakness as well as individuals with feeding and swallowing disorders.

Below is a list of common speech and language disorders that children have and a brief description of each disorder.

Speech Disorders

- Apraxia - difficulty planning and coordinating movements to make speech sounds
- Articulation Disorders – difficulty producing speech sounds
- Fluency Disorders - Stuttering
- Phonological Disorders – difficulty accurately producing sounds of words
- Voice Disorders – problems with the way the voice sounds

Language Disorders

- Expressive Language Disorders – difficulty using language
- Receptive Language Disorders – difficulty understanding language
- Pragmatic Language Disorders – difficulty with social communication; the way we speak to other people

Oral and Feeding Disorders

- Oral-Motor Disorders – weakness in the tongue and/or lip muscles
- Swallowing/Feeding Disorders – difficulty chewing and/or swallowing foods and liquids.

How can an SLP help your child?

An evaluation will be scheduled to determine your child's skill level and identify specific areas of difficulty. Following the results of the evaluation, an SLP will set goals to work towards and treat your child by addressing those areas of concerns. Therapy works best when an SLP is aware of your child's interests and has good rapport with your child. Each session, the SLP will work with your child towards meeting his/her goals.