



Information about Speech-Language Therapy (For Educators)



What is the role of a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)?

- Assessing and treating children who have difficulty with communicating
- Providing preventative services to promote good speech and language development in children
- Providing screenings
- Working with educators to encourage activities to help with communication skills
- Working with other professionals who see children with communication difficulties, like audiologists and other therapists
- Helping children who have swallowing and feeding difficulties (not always in school setting)

What areas does an SLP cover?

- Articulation: Pronunciation of speech sounds
- Phonology: Development of sound patterns
- Fluency: Stuttering
- Voice: The way the voice sounds, its quality
- Receptive Language: How a child understands language
- Expressive Language: How a child produces language
- Pragmatic Language: Social skills
- Hearing Loss: Helping children with hearing problems
- Swallowing/Feeding: Difficulty with eating (not always done in schools)

What happens in Therapy?

- Depending on the age of the child, the SLP will plan activities to help the child develop specific speech/language skills
- For younger children, skills will be embedded into games and play
- For older children, skills can be worked on more directly
- The SLP will choose a few goals to work on at a time. If the child has a lot of skills that need to be worked on, the SLP will prioritize a few to work on first.
- The SLP will keep data to make sure that the skill continues to improve. The SLP may ask for your help in noting any progress seen in the classroom.

Where can therapy take place?

- **Pull-Out Therapy:** Happens in the speech therapy room, away from your classroom. This is helpful for children who need a distraction-free environment to learn a new skill.
- **Push-In Therapy:** Sometimes, therapy will happen inside the classroom. This is helpful for children who know how to do a new skill but need help remembering to use it in the natural setting. The SLP's role in the classroom is to support the student(s) while keeping disruptions to your classroom as minimal as possible.
- **Combination:** Many children will need a combination of push-in and pull-out therapy depending on what they're working on and the type of environment they learn best in.