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# **Speech-Language Pathology: The Health Care Career For You?**



# What Does It Look Like?



# Working with Patients and Families



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# Retraining Speech



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# Training Staff for Safe Feeding



# Swallowing Studies— Collaborating with Radiologists



# Working on Speech and Language



# Working in Acute Care



# Why Would Speech-Language Pathology Interest Me?

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- Working in health care
- Being part of a team
- Helping people regain crucial life functions
- Expanding knowledge of effective treatments
- Using technology
- Working with families



# What Skills Do I Need?

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- Good oral and written communication
- Good observation of behavior
- Critical thinking and flexibility
  - ◆ Test hypotheses
- People skills
- Strong academic background

# Different Types of Disorders (Children and Adults)

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- Anatomy and physiology of head and neck
  - ◆ Swallowing disorders, cleft palate, voice disorders
- Cognitive neuroscience
  - ◆ Aphasia from strokes
  - ◆ Cognitive communication disorders (brain injury, dementia)

# Different Career Paths for SLP Expertise in Health Care

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- Clinician—senior clinician—clinical educator or supervisor
- Administrator
- Researcher
- Professor

# What Does It Take...

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...To Become a Certified Speech-Language Pathologist?

- Master's degree from an accredited communication sciences and disorders program
- Passing score on a national exam
- 9 month clinical fellowship

# Types of Health Care Settings

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- Hospitals
  - ◆ Acute care, rehabilitation, pediatric, long term acute care
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Home health
- Outpatient clinics
- Physician's offices
- Private practice

# What is the Job Market Like?

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- Excellent! Projected need is strong
  - ◆ Openings in all areas of health care as well as schools
  - ◆ Critical shortage of Ph.D.s in academic settings
- Factors influencing need
  - ◆ Retiring SLPs
  - ◆ Aging baby boomers will increase need for services
  - ◆ Babies with long term developmental needs

# Compensation

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- Salary or hourly compensation
  - ◆ Opportunities for part time, flexible hours
- Early career (4-6 years)
  - ◆ \$60,000 (2009 median)
- Experienced
  - ◆ \$80,000 (2009 median)

# How Can I Get More Information?

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- ASHA's Web site: **[www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)**
  - ◆ Click Students or The Public on the left
  - ◆ List of graduate programs
  - ◆ Information about financial aid
  - ◆ Questions? 800-638-8255



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