The Role of the SLP in Schools

A Presentation for Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and the Community
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) Are Specially Trained Professionals Who Have Earned:

- A master’s or doctoral degree
- The Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- A state license and/or Department of Education certification, where required
ASHA Requirements

- Master’s degree
- Supervised post graduate fellowship
- National competitive examination
SLPs Work With School Children Who Have Communication Problems That Affect Success In:

- Classroom activities
- Social interaction
- Literacy
- Learning
The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Provides Speech-Language Services For:

- School-age children with communication disorders that adversely affect children’s educational performance
Good Communication Skills Lead to Successful:

- Speaking
- Thinking
- Reading
- Writing
- Learning
Poor Communication Skills Lead to Problems:

- Understanding classroom instruction
- Participating in classroom instruction
- Developing and maintaining relationships

Are we still friends?
SLPs Work With Children Who Have A Variety Of Disabilities

- Language
- Voice
- Fluency or stuttering
- Articulation
- Swallowing, also called dysphagia
Language Disabilities Include:

- Slow development of vocabulary, concepts or grammar
- Inability to use different communication styles for different situations
- Poor building blocks of understanding/expressing ideas, social development, learning, reading, and writing
Voice Disorders

- Speech that is too high, low, or monotonous in pitch
- Interrupted by breaks
- Too loud or too soft
- Harsh, hoarse, breathy, or nasal
Fluency or Stuttering Problems

- Interruptions in flow or rhythm
- Can include hesitations, repetitions, or prolongations
- Can affect sounds, syllables, words, or phrases
Articulation Disorders

• Saying one sound for another (wabbit for rabbit)
• Omitting a sound in a word (i-cream for ice cream)
• Distorting a sound (thee for see)
Swallowing/Dysphagia

- Difficulty in sucking, chewing, triggering a swallow, moving food into the stomach
Swallowing/Dysphagia (continued)

- Interfere with eating lunch and snacks
- Reduce opportunities that build friendships
- Can affect social and communication skills
- Can impact learning
Speech and Language Disorders Can Be Associated With:

- Hearing loss
- Cleft palate
- Cerebral palsy and other motor problems
- Learning disabilities
Speech and Language Disorders Can Be Associated With:
(continued)

- Autism
- Developmental delays
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Other problems
SLPs Have Many Roles in Schools

• Prevention of communication disorders
• Identification of students at risk for later problems
• Assessment of students’ communication skills
• Evaluation of the results of comprehensive assessments
• Development and implementation of IEPs
SLPs Have Many Roles in Schools (continued)

- Documentation of outcomes
- Collaboration with teachers and other professionals
- Advocacy for teaching practices
- Participation in research projects
SLPs Have Many Roles in Schools (continued)

- Supervision of assistants
- Supervision of graduate students and clinical fellows
- Participation in school-wide curriculum and literacy teams
SLPs Work With Children in a Variety of Ways

• Combine communication goals with academic and social goals
  – Integrate classroom objectives
  – Help students understand and use basic language concepts
  – Support reading and writing
  – Increase students’ understanding of texts and lessons
SLPs Work With Children in a Variety of Ways (continued)

- Services can vary depending on students’ needs
  - Monitoring or periodic screening
  - Collaborating and consulting
  - Classroom based services
  - Small group or individual sessions
  - Speech classrooms
Signs of Communication Disorders

- Late talker
- Below expectations in classroom
- Difficulty learning to read and write
- Unable to express thoughts and ideas
Signs of Communication Disorders (continued)

• Problems understanding others and following directions
• Doesn’t get along with others
• Problems taking tests
How to Get Help

• Meet with classroom teacher
• Request a screening
ASHA Resources for Consumers About Communication Disorders

- [WWW.ASHA.ORG/public/](WWW.ASHA.ORG/public/) ASHA’s Public Web site
- To Locate a Professional: [WWW.ASHA.ORG/PROSERV/](WWW.ASHA.ORG/PROSERV/)
- ASHA’s Action Center for Consumers: toll free 1-800-638-8255
Some Brochures: Your First Copy is Free

- Getting Ready for Reading and Writing
- IDEA and Speech-Language Services in the Schools: A Guide for Parents and Guardians
- Literacy and Communication: Expectations From Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade
- The Speech-Language Pathologist in Your Child’s School: An Important Resource
More Brochures

- Child Language
- Speech Sound Disorders
- Stuttering
- Voice Disorders
Still More Brochures

- Ear Infections and Language Development
- Hearing, Noise, and School-Aged Children
- How Does Your Child Hear and Talk? (in English, Spanish, and Chinese)
Questions?

Press the "Esc" key on the computer's keyboard to end this presentation.