

Expanding Capacity

How SLPAs Support Quality Service Delivery

A practical guide for schools, health care settings, and private practice

Considerations for Using Speech-Language Pathology assistants (SLPAs):

With the shortage of practitioners in speech-language pathology and the growing demand for services, SLPAs can help to create a flexible model of service delivery.

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) face a growing workload that involves many of these tasks:

- providing direct intervention
- documenting clinical services
- scheduling services
- holding and attending meetings
- billing
- creating treatment plans

What is an SLPA?

A speech-language pathology assistant (SLPA) is a professional who—after completing academic coursework, fieldwork, and on-the-job training—performs tasks that a certified and/or licensed SLP prescribes, directs, and supervises as permitted by state laws and regulations.

By employing an SLPA, you

- support the needs of your students, patients, and clients and
- allow yourself to **practice at the top of your license**—which means engaging with your most complex cases and working at your highest professional level.

What can an SLPA do?

Some typical activities that may fall within an SLPA's scope of practice include the following:

Clinical Support

Implement therapy plans that the SLP has developed

Collect data during therapy sessions, and document client progress

Assist the SLP during assessments

Conduct speech and language screenings without interpretation

Assist the SLP with bilingual service delivery, as appropriate

Technology and Materials Support

Program and provide instruction on the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices

Ensure that the equipment is working and is calibrated

Prepare, organize, clean, and maintain clinical supplies and materials

Administrative and Program Support

Assist with clerical tasks such as scheduling, printing, and filing

Assist the SLP with research, marketing, and in-service training

Resource for Using SLPAs

- [SLPA Skills Inventory](#)
- [Supervision Workload Calculator](#)
- [ASHA SLPA Scope of Practice](#)
- [SLPA Self Evaluation Tool](#)
- [New SLPA Checklist](#)
- [State by State](#)
- [ASHA Assistants Certification Recognition in States](#)