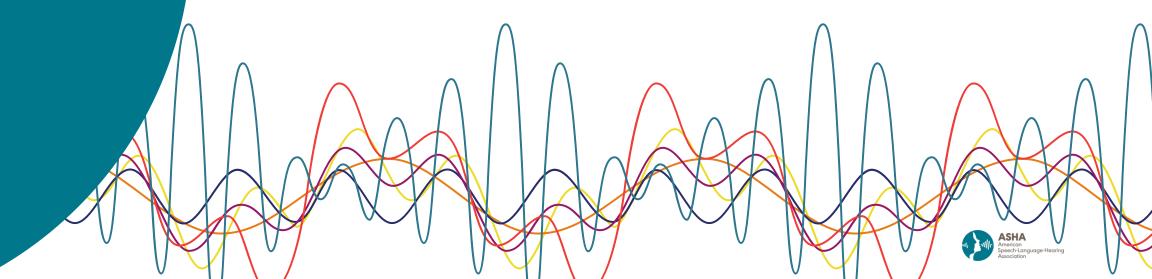
School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists:

Who We Are and What We Do

A presentation for school personnel and parents.



Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)



SLPs receive specialized preparation and training through masters or doctoral education programs. Highly qualified SLPs hold the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC).

School-Based SLPs Diagnose and Treat Speech, Language, and Swallowing Disorders



- ➤ A speech-language disorder is an impairment in the ability to understand and/or express thoughts and ideas.
- ➤ It may affect speaking, reading, writing, processing information or interacting socially.
- ➤ Feeding and swallowing disorders interfere with the ability to safely eat and swallow food and liquids and impacts overall well-being and educational performance of students.





Speech sound disorders that may be characterized by:

- Substitutions (e.g., "fink" for "think")
- Omissions/deletions (e.g., "ca" for "cat")
- Distortions –sounds are altered or changed (e.g., lisp "th" for "s" or lateral lisp)
- Additions (e.g., "buhlack" for "black")





Childhood Apraxia of Speech, which may be characterized by:

- Inconsistent sound errors on consonants and vowels
- Inappropriate prosody
- Pausing between sounds, syllables, or words



Spoken language disorders, which may include difficulties with:

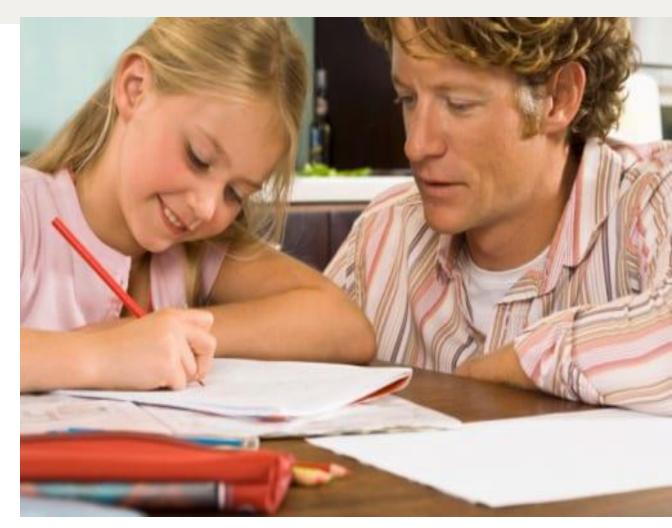
- Phonological skills (e.g., learning and producing sounds, associating letters and sounds)
- Morphology and syntax (e.g., formulating sentences, correct use of grammar and word endings)
- Vocabulary and word finding
- Listening and comprehension



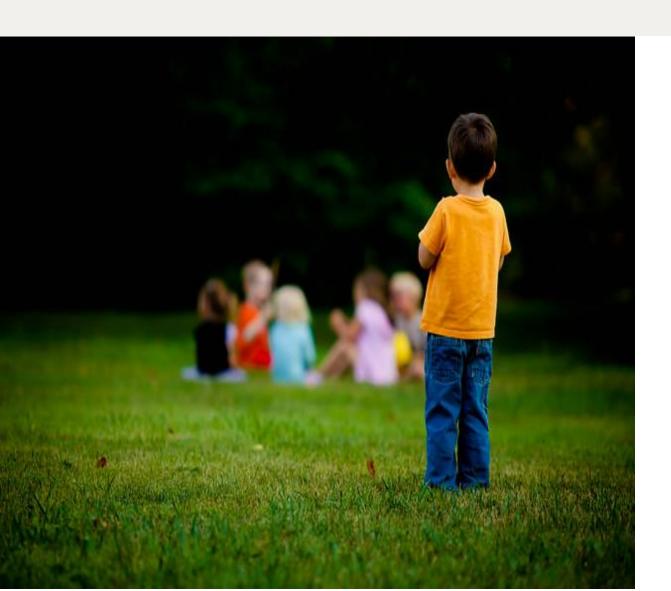


Written language disorders, which may include difficulties with:

- Reading
- > Writing
- > Spelling







Social communication disorders, which may include difficulties with:

- Pragmatics
- Social cognition and interaction
- Language processing



Cognitive-communication disorders, which may include difficulties with:

- Learning
- Memory
- Perception
- Problem solving





Voice and resonance disorders, which may be characterized by:

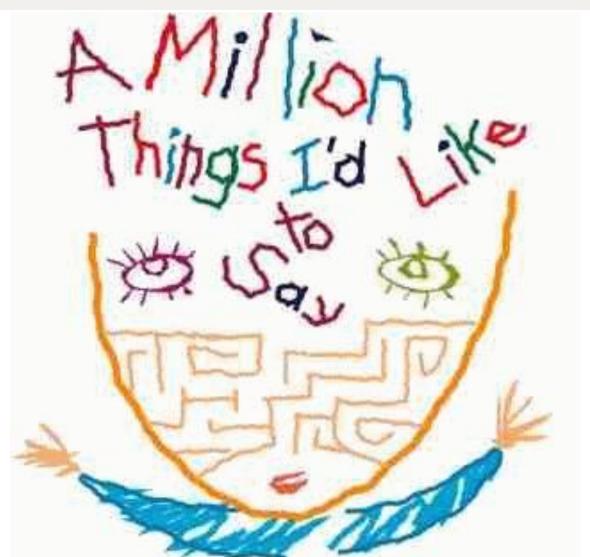
- Pitch that is too high or low
- Hoarse, raspy quality
- Loss of voice
- Abnormal resonance (e.g., hypernasality, hyponasality, or cul de sac resonance)





Fluency disorders, which may include difficulties such as:

- Stuttering
- Cluttering







Feeding and swallowing disorders, which may be characterized by

- Eating a limited number of foods
- Inability to use age-appropriate utensils or cups
- ➤ Taking longer than 30 min to finish meals or snacks
- Coughing/choking during or after swallowing
- Wet/gurgly vocal quality after eating or drinking
- Limited weight gain and growth



Speech-Language Pathologists Help Students

To have a voice and communicate with an augmentative or alternative communication (AAC) system.

AAC systems may be:

- > High tech or low tech
- > Temporary or permanent
- ➤ A tool to facilitate natural speech and reduce challenging behaviors due to communication breakdowns





Additional Roles of SLPs in Schools

Speech-Language Pathologists Assist With Screenings



- Work as members of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) teams and collaborate with teachers and families.
- Select and implement universal screening measures and interventions in areas such as literacy.



Speech-Language Pathologists Develop, Implement, and Monitor Individualized Education Programs

- Help develop Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Plan and implement intervention based on IEP goals
- Collect data on student progress toward IEP goals
- Complete compliance paperwork (e.g., therapy logs, Medicaid billing)
- Attend IEP meetings





Speech-Language Pathologists Work With Staff, Families, and Other Professionals



- Collaborate with teachers, parents, administrators, and support staff
- Provide training to staff and families
- Serve as case manager
- Supervise paraprofessionals, student SLPs, and Clinical Fellows



Speech-Language Pathologists Are Required To:



- Remain current on ASHA practice policy as well as federal, state, and local directives
- Attend professional development courses to maintain state licensure and ASHA certification (CCC)
- Uphold ASHA Code of Ethics as well as code(s) for all states in which they practice.



