Speech-Language Pathology: The Health Care Career For You?
What Does It Look Like?
Working with Patients and Families
Retraining Speech
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?

• 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?

• 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)

• 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

• Clinician—senior clinician—clinical educator or supervisor
• Administrator
• Researcher
• Professor
What Does It Take...

...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

• 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?

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

• 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?

• ASHA’s Web site: www.asha.org
  - Click Students or The Public on the left
  - List of graduate programs
  - Information about financial aid
  - Questions? 800-638-8255