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
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)
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 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/](http://WWW.ASHA.ORG/public/) ASHA’s Public Web site
- To Locate a Professional: [WWW.ASHA.ORG/PROSERV/](http://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)