



SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

Let's talk speech language pathology!

Deaf Connect Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) work with you and your child to:

- Develop listening skills.
- Use words and then sentences to express themselves and participate in their community.
- Improve the clarity of the speech sounds they produce, progressing from 'baby talk' to speech that is easily understood.
- Understand the meaning of spoken language.
- Learn to read and write.
- Use augmentative and alternative communication when this is the most appropriate way for your child to communicate.

- Pay attention to others when they are communicating.
- Develop safe and mature eating patterns, when this is problematic.

SLPs study, diagnose and treat communication disorders, including difficulties with speaking, listening, understanding language, reading, writing, social skills, stuttering and using their voice. They work with people who have difficulty communicating, including children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Deaf Connect SLPs have specialised knowledge in language, communication, and the social-



emotional development of deaf and hard of hearing children, as well as the impact of deafness on development.

Communication development starts from the moment a child is born and is a process that never stops. Developing language in the early years is particularly crucial because without good language skills, deaf and hard of hearing children may struggle to develop in the same way as other children, to access education and to become independent. Speech and language therapy aims to help all children to communicate as well as possible.

SLPs work collaboratively with families, professionals and other service providers to provide a well rounded transdisciplinary approach to support children to reach their academic and social potential.

Further reading

Position Statement on Requirements on Early Intervention for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in Australia (Deaf Australia Inc.):

Speech Pathology Australia

https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist/SPAweb/Resources_for_the_Public/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist/What_is_a_Speech_Pathologist.aspx

Roles of Speech Language Pathologists and Teachers of the Deaf (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association):

<http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Roles-of-SLPs-and-TODs.pdf>

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/language-and-communication/spoken-language/speech-and-language-therapy/>

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/PDF/healthy-hearing/hh-min-stds-prac-qld.pdf>

Want to know more?

You can contact our team for support by emailing therapy.info@deafconnect.org.au