



SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Monthly Informational Newsletter

September

Use the SLP as a Resource

Stop by the speech office for a visit. Here are some things the SLP can help you with to better understand your special education students' IEPs:

IEP Goals and Objectives

These are individualized targets set for each student to master throughout the school year. The SLP can help you summarize your students' goals and integrate them into everyday classroom activities.

Accommodations and Modifications

This is one of the most important areas of the IEP for classroom teachers. *Accommodations* change how the child accesses their education, such as extended time for tests. *Modifications* change what the child is expected to learn, such as, changes to instructional content.

Differentiation

SLPs specialize in modifying instruction for language impaired students to better access general education curriculum. The SLP can help make visuals to support instruction or modify directions for children with receptive language difficulties.

Service Hours

Services hours indicate the amount of time a student will meet with a related service professional (e.g. 1x per week for a 30-minute session). Each professional will contact you to coordinate a time to meet with your student.

Welcome to the New School Year Meet Your School's SLP

Hello teachers, administrators, and staff! Welcome to the new school year. I will be the Speech-Language Pathologist meeting with your students this year. Each month I'll be distributing an informational newsletter about educationally based speech and language topics.

The purpose of these newsletters is to introduce you to different types of communication disorders. A common misconception is that communication disorders only affect a child's clarity of speech. This couldn't be more untrue! Communication is all around us and affects every aspect of learning.

Each month I'll highlight a different communication impairment and identify specific classroom strategies to help with managing student's communicative weaknesses. Please reach out to me throughout the school year with any questions you might have about a struggling student or how to implement the strategies I mention in these newsletters.

What is a Communication Disorder?

"A communication disorder is an impairment in the ability to receive, send, process or comprehend concepts, verbal, nonverbal or graphic symbol systems" (ASHA 1993).

Difficulties in communication can affect many skills essential to learning including both spoken and written language. Areas of difficulty include:

- **Speech:** the physical production of language including articulation, voice, and fluency.
- **Language:** comprehension or expression of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar and social pragmatics.
- **Hearing:** the perception of sound separate from attaching meaning to a message.
- **Auditory Processing:** the processing of auditory sound separate from hearing sensitivity.