

Speech Pathologists: Factsheet for carers



Government
of South Australia

Department for
Child Protection

Information for carers about the type of services that a Speech Pathologist can provide for children and young people.

Speech Pathologists are allied health professionals who assist people with difficulties in hearing, listening, understanding, using speech and language, and eating and drinking safely.

Speech Pathologists

- Assess infants and children who have trouble with swallowing, eating, and drinking and provide guidance to carers to support safe mealtimes.
- Support carers with strategies to assist children with speech, language, or other communication delays.
- Provide therapeutic intervention to support children to speak clearly and fluently and use their voice effectively.
- Prescribe alternative communication systems for children who require them.

How do Speech Pathologists support young children?

- Providing guidance regarding mealtime safety issues or restricted food intake.
- Providing support to a child who is struggling to use their communication skills or who have social, emotional, or behavioural difficulties.
- Supporting the development of children's understanding and use of language.

How do Speech Pathologists support older children?

- Providing strategies to support to young people who have difficulty with language related social interaction.
- Prescribing and supporting the implementation of alternative communication systems including technology.
- Undertaking speech pathology interventions with a focus on integrating goals into the school curriculum, home, social and vocational settings.

What can you do?

Contact your DCP case worker and or child's therapist/s about being an integral part of the therapeutic support provided to your child.

Ask how you can support your child's therapy goals in the home environment.

Where can I learn more?

Please visit the DCP carers website for more information in supporting children and young people in care

<https://bit.ly/dcp-disability-development> or by scanning the QR code:

