



Language Disorders

Involves the following deficits:
spoken or written, form (morphology, syntax), content (semantics) &/or use (functional social skills communication).

Treatment targets delays & disorders by increasing:

- Comprehension of information to understand what is being said & follow directions.
- Ability to identify grammatical markers to produce complete & grammatically correct sentences.
- Vocabulary knowledge to understand others & use those words themselves.
- Ability to ask & answer questions in a variety of settings.
- Use of language skills while applying the social rules of conversation & play.

The SLPs scope of practice

The role of the speech language pathologist (SLP) is to evaluate, diagnose, & treat delays or disorders in the following areas: expressive & receptive language, articulation, stuttering, voice, oral motor skills, swallowing, cognitive communication & social communication skills.

The SLP also provides aural rehabilitation for individuals who have hearing deficits & implements augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) for individuals who present with a need for non-speaking communication, often due to comprehensive disorders such as progressive neurological disorders or Autism Spectrum Disorders.

References:

- 1) Bowen, C. (2011). Children's speech sound disorders. Retrieved June 30, 2018, from <http://www.speech-language-therapy.com>
- 2) American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2018). Retrieved from <http://www.asha.org/>
- 3) Speech and Language kids by SLP solutions (2016). What is language therapy?. Retrieved from <https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/>

What do Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) treat?



TLC Kids Therapy: Main
502 E. Ramsey Rd. San Antonio, 78216
210.490.3900

ABA with TLC
200 E. Ramsey Rd. San Antonio, 78216
210.418.2500

TLC Kids Therapy: Coronado
962 Coronado Blvd. Universal City, 78148
210.526.4100

contact@tlckidstherapy.com
www.tlckidstherapy.com

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SLPs & SLP assistants work in collaboration with therapists from other disciplines to provide counseling, training, & education to families & other professionals. Speech therapy intervention works toward the prevention of & decrease in existing symptoms of disorders impacting a child. Early identification & intervention is recommended for best outcomes.



Phonological Disorders

Phonological disorders are perceptual & phonemic deficits. Difficulty perceiving & manipulating speech sounds impact speech intelligibility. Errors are rule-based and are identified as a pattern. Children may be able to produce the sound in isolation, but not use it correctly in another context. Treatment focuses on helping children to assimilate the phonological rules and promote generalization to other sounds in the pattern.

Cognitive Communications Disorders

These are defined as deficits in organizing thoughts, attentiveness, memory, planning, &/or problem solving in communication. Treatment focuses on restoring executive functions, providing compensatory strategies & training family & caregivers.

Stuttering

Stuttering refers to the interruption in the fluency of speech. Dysfluencies are characterized by the following:

- Blocks: difficulty getting a word out (i.e. "I... went").
- Prolongations: stretching the word out for a long period (i.e. "Cccccccandy").
- Repetitions: repeated parts of a word (i.e. "Ca-ca-candy").

Evidence-based treatments are implemented to provide compensatory strategies for fluency.

Voice Disorders

Voice disorders involve inappropriate voice quality, pitch, & volume according to age, geographic location, & cultural background. Treatment includes improvement of voice production & respiration coordination, compensatory techniques, restoring exercises, & modification strategies.

Articulation Disorders

Articulation disorders involve incorrect placement in producing sounds. Characteristics include: substitution, deletion or omission of a sound in a word. Articulation treatment focuses on targeting speech sound errors at isolation, word, & sentence levels.

Swallowing Disorders

Swallowing disorders include feeding & swallowing difficulties (dysphagia). Possible symptoms include: falling asleep while eating, breathing difficulties while eating or drinking, eating only certain foods, food aversions, breastfeeding difficulties, lengthy feeding times, difficulty chewing, excessive drooling, coughing or gagging while eating, or maintaining appropriate weight. Treatment is tailored to the child based on the cause, symptoms, & type of swallowing problem.

