HOW WE HELP: Speech-Language Pathologists in Your Child's School

Children who have communication problems may have trouble learning, or making and keeping friends. This can negatively affect their academic and social success. Speech-language pathologists in schools help in areas that include the following:

* Voice. Your child may sound hoarse or lose his voice. He may sound like he talks through his nose, called nasality. His voice may be too loud or too soft. Voice problems can make it hard to talk in class or with friends.
* Stuttering. Your child may have trouble speaking smoothly. She may repeat sounds or words or have long pauses when she talks. Stuttering can make it hard to answer questions or give speeches in class. It can also make it hard to talk to friends.
* Speech sounds. Your child may have trouble saying sounds. He may not speak clearly and be hard to understand.
* Listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Your child may have trouble understanding what she hears. She may not follow directions or answer questions well. It may be hard for her to tell others about her thoughts. She may not say the correct words or say only short sentences. Listening and speaking problems can also make reading and writing harder.
* Feeding and swallowing. Feeding and swallowing problems can make it hard for your child to eat and drink enough during the day. This can make it hard to learn. It can also make social times, like lunch or snack, harder for your child.
* Assistive technology. Children who have difficulty speaking may benefit from using an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system to display or "say" the words they want to use on a communication board or screen
* Social communication. Your child may have trouble talking with other children. He may not make friends easily. He may not understand what others think or how they feel.
* Cognitive communication. These are the thinking skills your child needs to remember, solve problems, and use her imagination. Learning disabilities and brain damage can cause these types of problems.

Learn more about speech-language pathologists in schools at www.asha.org/public.

ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)

COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Better Hearing & Speech Month