

Speech Pathology

Speech pathologists can help people who have trouble with their communication, eating and drinking. They can also run group training for parents, teachers and other carers and support staff.



Eating and drinking

- Helping with mealtimes.
- Strengthening/improving muscles used during eating and drinking
- Making changes to food/drink to help people to swallow safely.
- Helping with eating a wider variety of food.
- Strengthening/improving muscles used during eating and drinking



Social skills including play skills

- Waiting.
- Sharing and taking turns.
- Imaginative play e.g. dressing up.
- Starting and maintaining interactions.
- Making comments about what is happening.
- Re-starting an interaction when it suddenly stops.
- How to make friends.



Early communication skills

- Looking at people or things.
- Taking turns in interactions.
- How to listen, react and respond to others.



Speech sounds

- Making sounds.
- Putting sounds together into words.
- Speaking clearly.



Understanding language

- Understanding what is happening.
- Understanding objects, signs, hand gestures, pictures and words.
- Understanding questions.
- Understanding instructions.
- Reading and writing.



Saying words

- Telling you what they want.
- Telling you how they feel.
- Telling you about their day.
- Asking for things (e.g. attention, items, action, help etc.).
- Asking questions.
- Making comments.



Voice and Fluency

- How loud you talk.
- What your voice sounds like.
- Talking smoothly (not stuttering).



Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- Using different tools to communicate other than spoken words (e.g. Key Word Signs, picture communication boards/ books, technology such as computer based systems or a Big Mac switch).