

WHAT DIAGNOSES DOES A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST TREAT?

SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

Articulation and phonology. May be developmental but may also be due to:

- ◆ Reduced strength in the articulators (tongue, lips, jaw, palate, teeth)
- ◆ Reduced coordination
- ◆ Structural anomalies (short frenulum, cleft lip/palate)

SLPs can provide behavioral therapy to elicit age appropriate speech production.

OROFACIAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS

Aberrant and exaggerated anterior lingual movement during speech or swallowing (tongue thrust). This affects sounds and swallow ability.

SLPs can provide behavioral therapies which may reduce tongue thrust and its impact on dentition.

RESONANCE DISORDERS

A disruption in the way air flows through the oral and nasal cavity:

- ◆ **Hypernasality:** too much air (e.g. cleft palate)
- ◆ **Hyponasality:** obstructed airflow secondary to nasal blockage (e.g. hypertrophic adenoids)

Nasal obstruction can result in obligatory mouth breathing and open mouth posture.

LANGUAGE DISORDERS

Difficulty using and understanding spoken, written, and other symbol systems. The disorder may involve difficulty with:

- ◆ **Form:** how sounds, parts of words (e.g. -ing), word phrases (e.g. a noun phrase) and sentence types (interrogative) form expressive/receptive language (e.g. syntax, morphology, and phonology)
- ◆ **Content:** semantics or meaning of expressive/receptive language
- ◆ **Use:** function or pragmatics of expressive/receptive language. Reasons for talking (e.g. to request, to deny), discourse skills (e.g. topic maintenance, turn-taking), and the ability to be flexible

Facilitation of age-appropriate language skills can help with interactions and care of the pediatric population.

BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Includes the following:

- ◆ Difficulties with turn-taking and attention-span
- ◆ Need for behavioral reinforcement for age-appropriate behaviors related to speech, language and swallow function
- ◆ Facilitation of age appropriate social skills

SLPs can help your patients' in-seat behavior.

SENSORY INTEGRATION DYSFUNCTION DISORDERS

Increased or decreased sensitivity to stimuli.

SLPs can help desensitize children who have difficulty being touched in the oral cavity.

DYSPHAGIA OR FEEDING & SWALLOWING DISORDERS

Difficulty with the oral, pharyngeal or esophageal stages of swallowing.

Dental anomalies may cause oral stage dysphagia.