Speech-Language Pathologist

Roles

Speech-language pathologists, sometimes called speech therapists, assess, diagnose, treat, and help to prevent communication and swallowing disorders in patients.

Responsibilities

- Communicate with patients to evaluate their levels of speech or language difficulty
- Determine the extent of communication problems by giving standardized tests and observing the patient’s ability to speak, read, and write
- Use instrumentation to measure communication and swallowing (e.g., EMG, nasendoscopy, stroboscopy)
- Diagnose and treat disorders of: speech (e.g., stuttering, articulation, voice), oral and written language, including literacy, swallowing and feeding, and cognitive functions (e.g., memory, attention)
- Establish augmentative and alternative communication systems (e.g., speech generating devices) for individuals with little to no speech capability
- Screen hearing
- Provide auditory training and speech reading for individuals with hearing loss
- Select and fit prosthetic/adaptive devices (e.g., speaking valves, electrolarynges)
- Enhance communication performance (e.g., accent modification, professional voice)
- Educate and counsel individuals, families, educators, and others about communication and swallowing disorders and their treatment