

Are school Speech-Language Pathology services the same as those provided in clinics and private practice offices?

Speech-Language Pathology services in schools are different from those provided in other settings such as hospitals and private clinics. **The focus of school Speech-Language Pathology services is to help students succeed in their school program.**

To assist students with their school programs, S-LPs may go into classrooms to work with groups of children. This often happens with Grade Primary classes at the start of the school year. They may provide training for teachers or teacher assistants in how to work with children on specific speech and/or language skills. The S-LPs may also be members of the school teams that develop and implement individual programs for children with special needs. In addition, they may work with professionals from outside agencies in the diagnosis and treatment of communication disorders.

Students who are not seen individually for traditional, pull-out speech therapy sessions, may receive other S-LP services at school. Many students do not receive individual speech therapy sessions because the best strategy for addressing their communication needs at school is through indirect services. If you have any questions about the S-LP services at school, please check the back of this brochure for more information.

Where can I get more information?

Speech-Language Pathologists are important members of the student services teams in our schools. As valued members of our regional support staff, they add to the program supports that are available to students. More information on Speech-Language Pathology services may be obtained by referring to the following chart:

Topic	Contact
Speech-Language Pathology services at your child's school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133
Referrals for Speech-Language Pathology Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133
Parental consent for Speech-Language Pathology Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133
Copies of assessment report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Principal
Student records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board and Provincial Student Records Policies: www.ednet.ns.ca www.srsb.ca
General inquiries and to access additional copies of this brochure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 902-625-2191/ 1-800-650-4448 www.srsb.ca srsb@srsb.ca

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Strait Regional School Board
Programs and Student Services

Speech-Language Pathology (S-LP) Services

A Guide for Parents/Guardians



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Excellence in Lifelong Learning

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Who are Speech-Language Pathologists?

Speech-Language Pathologists (S-LPs) are professionals who have completed university training in a range of areas, including child development, language acquisition, voice production, speech production, and various other topics in the field of communication. They possess a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology and other essential credentials, including the completion of a supervised practicum. In Canada, Speech-Language Pathologists may receive national certification from the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. They complete continuing education to maintain this certification.

What services do Speech-Language Pathologists provide?

Speech-Language Pathologists work with students who have speech and language challenges. They provide a variety of indirect and direct services to a circuit of schools.

Indirect services may include:

- consultation with teachers and parents on school programs;
- participation in school planning teams and program planning teams; and
- facilitation of training sessions for school personnel and parents.

Direct services may include:

- speech-language assessments;
- group therapy; and
- individual therapy

Speech-Language Pathologists work with students, parents, teacher assistants, teachers and other professionals to deliver these services using a team approach.

How can my child access Speech-Language Pathology Services?

In order to access Speech-Language Pathology services, a referral must be made to the School Planning Team. The School Planning Team is made up of administrators, teachers and regional student services personnel. They meet on a regular basis at the school to discuss the programming needs of students. If the team determines that a student should access Speech-Language Pathology services, a referral is completed. **Informed, written parental consent is required for any formal, individual speech-language assessment. Parents have the right to receive a copy of the assessment report. We suggest that you keep a copy of the report for future reference.**

If you have concerns about your child's communication skills, you may wish to speak with a teacher, the chair of the School Planning Team or a Speech-Language Pathologist to discuss the matter. Such consultation is often helpful in determining if a student should be referred for Speech-Language Pathology services.

The School Planning Team handles referrals and sets the wait list for Speech-Language Pathology services. While professionals from outside agencies may recommend that a student receive Speech-Language Pathology services, the School Planning Team determines how these services are allocated in the building. Although information from outside professionals is appreciated, school board personnel decide how Speech-Language Pathology services are delivered in our schools.

What is a Speech-Language Assessment?

A speech-language assessment is a formal evaluation of a student's speech and language skills in the areas of:

- comprehension (how well the student understands speech and language);
- production (how well the student forms sounds, words and sentences); and
- social communication skills (how well the student uses their speech and language skills in different social settings).

The assessment is made up of observations, interviews and tests. It involves the collection of information from many sources and may include discussion with the student, parent interviews, consultation with teachers, classroom observations and a review of student records. The assessment provides a learner profile of your child's communication strengths and challenges. All of the assessment information is used to develop an appropriate school program for the student. It is not used for labeling.

Where are the assessment reports on my child kept at school?

The assessment reports completed by school board Speech-Language Pathologists are the property of the school board. These reports are kept in a Confidential Student Record at the school. There is limited access to this record. Please check the back of this brochure for more information on student records.