

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

No, they are not the same.

**What can parents/guardians expect of school Speech-Language Pathology services?**

Each school S-LP provides services to multiple schools. Each school has a School Planning Team that prioritizes and allocates support services for students. 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 their building. School S-LPs are members of their School Planning Teams in order to assist in prioritizing their services. **The focus of school Speech-Language Pathology services is to help students succeed in their school program.**

Most students who have been prioritized by the School Planning Team receive indirect services. School S-LPs provide indirect services by:

- developing and implementing individual programs for students;
- going into classrooms to work with children and their teachers; and
- providing training for teachers, Teacher Assistants, and parents to help them work with children on specific speech and/or language skills.

For more information about the S-LP services at your child’s school, please refer to the back of this brochure.

**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"> <li>• Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133</li> </ul>
Referrals for Speech-Language Pathology Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133</li> </ul>
Parental consent for Speech-Language Pathology Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator of Student Services: 902-625-7133</li> </ul>
Copies of assessment report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Principal</li> </ul>
Student records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Centre and Provincial Student Records Policies: <a href="http://www.ednet.ns.ca">www.ednet.ns.ca</a> <a href="http://www.srce.ca">www.srce.ca</a></li> </ul>
General inquiries and to access additional copies of this brochure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 902-625-2191/ 1-800-650-4448</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.srce.ca">www.srce.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="mailto:srce@srce.ca">srce@srce.ca</a></li> </ul>

**Speech-Language Pathology (S-LP) Services**

**A Guide for Parents/Guardians**



## 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 Speech-Language and Audiology Canada. 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 their 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/guardians, 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/guardians 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 waitlist 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 their building. Although information from outside professionals is appreciated, Regional Centre 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:

- listening comprehension (how well the student understands language);
- verbal expression (how well the student uses language to convey messages);
- speech sound production (how well the student articulates speech sounds); 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/guardian 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 Speech-Language Pathologists are the property of the Strait Regional Centre for Education. These reports are kept in a Confidential Student Record. There is limited access to confidential student information. Please check the back of this brochure for more information on student records.