


When, Where, & How to Refer and the Role of the Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist


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Learning Objectives


- Understand the roles & clinical scope of practice of a pediatric Speech and Language Pathologist
- Recognize relationship between Otolaryngology and pediatric speech pathology
- Identify the need for referral to pediatric speech pathology
- List resources available on the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association website (asha.org)



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SLP Scope of Practice

- Fluency
- Speech Production
- Language (spoken and written)
- Cognition
- Voice
- Resonance
- Feeding & Swallowing (Dysphagia)
- Auditory Habilitation & Rehabilitation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QjNly10KE>


- <https://www.asha.org/policy/SP2016-00343/>



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Common Diagnoses in Pediatric Otolaryngology related to Speech Pathology


- Recurrent OM
- Tongue and/or lip tie
- VPI post T&A
- Hearing Loss
- Global developmental delay, autism, syndromes
- Hoarseness and/or nodules
- Speech delay
- Feeding & Swallowing (Dysphagia)




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When to Refer


- Speech & Language milestones & handouts from ASHA
- Speech, language, and fluency norms and signs cheat sheet
- Feeding and Swallowing disorders from ASHA
- Feeding and Swallowing cheat sheet




<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart/>




<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CUCJL8I8gI3vdlRt6ic-9Cums8oXm>



<https://www.asha.org/public/app/signs/swallowing-disorders-in-children/signs>




<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Tqpe26n9IAu1Xk17EYXfE86KocCo>



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Quick Screening Questions (Speech & Language)

- Does your child become frustrated/upset when trying to communicate and/or avoid talking?
- How many total words does your child say?
 - 12-15 months: first words
 - 18 months: 50 words
 - 2 years: 200-300 words
- How many words does your child string together?
 - Average number of words per utterance = 1 word per year of age
 - 1 year : 1 word utterances
 - 2 years : 2 word phrases
 - 3 years : 3 word phrases
 - Etc.



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Quick Screening Questions (Speech & Language) continued

- On a scale from 1-10, 1 being 10% of the time and 10 being 100% of the time, how often do other people understand your child's speech?
 - AGE IN YEARS / 4 x 100 = % CHILD SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY STRANGERS
 - 1 year = 1/4 or 25% intelligible to strangers
 - 2 years = 2/4 or 50% intelligible to strangers
 - 3 years = 3/4 or 75% intelligible to strangers
 - 4 years = 4/4 or 100% intelligible to strangers

Quick Screening Questions for Feeding & Swallowing

- How long does it take to feed your child?
 - Longer than 30 minutes, tip-off for problem
- Are mealtimes stressful for child and/or caregiver?
 - Neurologic-based skill and safety issues?
 - Behavior and/or sensory issues?
- Has your child lost or failed to gain weight?
 - If no weight gain for 2-3 months, sign of problem
- Are there signs of aspiration?
 - Congestion ↑ during feeding; gurgly voice
 - Stress cues in infants: splayed fingers, raised eyebrows, coughing, choking, reflux, refusing feeds
 - Chronic pulmonary concerns (may be sign for silent aspiration)

ASHA Professional Development. Evaluating Feeding and Swallowing Disorders in Infants and Children. Four Key Questions to Ask Parents. Joan Arvedson, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

Service Locations- Where to Refer

- Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) – for birth to 3 years
- Outpatient
- Home Health
- Private Clinic
- Public Schools
 - Can serve from birth if child has hearing loss or visual impairment
 - Otherwise, serves beginning at age 3 for other disabilities

Referral Process for ECI (birth-3yrs,) Outpatient (Hospital,) Home Health, or Private Clinic

- **Send speech referral**
 - Please be specific about why you are making the referral. See previous slide "When to Refer.")
 - It is, also, helpful to include information from the caregiver
- Conduct audiological exam prior to speech/language evaluation
- Some insurance plans require full WCC within the past year



Referral Process in the Schools


- Schools (Ages 3+ OR from birth if pt is AI or VI)
 - Developmental disorders or delays:
 - If child is not yet enrolled in school (ages 3+), caregiver can call Special Education or Early Childhood department in school district
 - If enrolled in school, caregiver can discuss w/ teacher re: concerns. Teacher can help connect to supports, including SLP.
 - Auditory Impairment (AI) or Visual Impairment (VI):
 - If birth-to-3 and receiving services from ECI, caregiver can ask the ECI provider about AI or VI services through the school district.
 - If not receiving ECI, caregiver can call Special Education dept. in the school district and ask for the contact information for the Deaf Education or VI program.

Once Referred

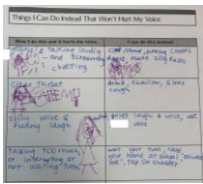

- Patient undergoes full evaluation with Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)
- If they qualify, the SLP submits evaluation for authorization from insurance to initiate therapy. (Insurance may need a signature from referring physician.)
- Note: There may be a waiting period between the date of referral and evaluation date **and/or** between evaluation and initiation of therapy. Home program resources are key for caregivers in the meantime:
 - See previous slide with link to asha.org
 - See next slide with YouTube links for strategies and interactive videos

YouTube Videos for Caregivers

- Catherine Davis
 - 
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcG1gLZ7u82ajnx6QI2YNWQ/>
- Heather Sommer
 - 
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMR8QGjyf8JbGJropHy-XQ>

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Implementation Of Therapy

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 - Patient with vocal nodules
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 - Pacing board for fluency

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Implementation Of Therapy

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References

- www.asha.org
- ASHA Professional Development. Evaluating Feeding and Swallowing Disorders in Infants and Children. Four Key Questions to Ask Parents. Joan Arvedson, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

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Questions or comments?

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- Thank you!

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