

# Speech Therapy

## Communication

Communication is defined as the process by which information, thoughts, ideas, and feelings are exchanged between individuals.

Communication covers a broad range of *speech & language* skills that are required in the school environment.

A speech therapist (ST) is a highly-trained professional who evaluates and treats children who have difficulty with speech or language.

## Speech

**Articulation:** A student may have difficulty saying a certain sound (such as saying “thun” for “sun”).

**Phonology:** A student may have difficulty with certain patterns of sounds (such as leaving off the beginning or ending sounds in words, or reducing consonant blends, such as saying “top” for “stop”).

**Fluency/Stuttering:** A student may struggle at times to get the words out or may repeat part or whole words (such as “I, I, I, w--want this”).

## Language

**Receptive Language:** A student may struggle to understand language; they may not understand what words mean and have difficulty understanding the relationship between concepts. They may have difficulty following instructions or responding to questions appropriately.

**Expressive Language:** A student may have difficulty using language to express their thoughts and ideas. They may not put words together to form complete sentences. They may also struggle to use appropriate language structures (grammar) or choose the right words (content) to use in a sentence.

**Pragmatic Language:** A student may have difficulty using social language to communicate with others. They may not know what is socially appropriate to say or do in different social contexts.

## What does a speech therapist do?

Speech therapy services can vary depending on students' needs. Speech therapists may work with students in small group or individual sessions. There may also be classroom-based sessions to help integrate communication goals into academic or social goals.