


Speech-Language Pathology

Early Intervention
Provider
Fact Sheets 

What is Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) in Early Intervention?

A Speech-Language pathologist supports a child’s ability to communicate across routines and communication partners. SLPs provide interventions to support a child’s receptive language (understanding of what is being communicated to them), expressive language (ability to communicate with others), and speech (motor production of speech sounds). SLPs are trained in total communication approaches can help families explore additional communication options with families including (e.g., verbal speech, sign language, alternative communication devices (AAC), etc.) SLPs also support children with their social communication and interactions to build skills in imitation, turn taking, shared enjoyment, and appropriate skill-level conversations.

How would a speech-language pathologist support your family?

Social Communication

- Non-verbal (gestures, eye contact, body movements, and facial expressions)
- Verbal communication
- Reciprocal interactions
- Appropriate skill level conversations

Speech

- Sound production and combination (articulation)

Language

- Receptive skills (Understanding of language)
- Expressive skills (Use of language)

Challenging Behaviors

- Emotional regulation
- Understanding of expectations

Feeding/Eating

- Picky eating
- Feeding or swallowing difficulties
- Oral motor skills (chewing)

Play Skills

- Play milestones
- Social interaction (family/peers)

Independence with Routines

- Morning (waking up)
- Day-to-day (home or daycare)
- Evening (bedtime)
- Mealtime (before and during)
- Transitions between activities
- Community outings (grocery store, park, library etc.)

When should you seek out a speech-language pathologist?

If you have concerns about any of the areas listed above, talk with your pediatrician, or seek out an evaluation through **EI CO** (the website is listed below). Anyone can place a referral, even you! If your child is found eligible for EI services following an evaluation, you and your family’s team will identify your child’s greatest area of need and the most applicable provider will be paired with your family.

What is the Primary Service Provider Model?

The approach of choosing the most applicable provider for the identified needs is called the Primary Service Provider Model. EI practitioners support children in all areas of child development, and offer wide varieties of expertise. In many cases, each provider is supported by a team of additional disciplines to support well-rounded care for each family. If you and your child are already receiving EI services, and your child needs additional support in an area that your current provider feels would be better addressed by a speech-language pathologist, you can reach out to schedule a meeting with your service coordinator to discuss the possibility of adding an OT to your team. Providers may be added to the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), based on available resources and necessary approval.

What should you plan to discuss with your SLP?

The goal of working with a speech-language pathologist is to support your child and your family in your everyday life. Share the routines, activities, and communication partners that are difficult for you and your child. Share the goals you have for your child and your family, and things that you wish would be easier. Your SLP may ask what you are currently trying, and will provide suggestions based on your child and your family goals.

Helpful Resources

[EI Colorado Website](#)



[ASHA – SLP Services in EI](#)



[JFK Partners ENRICH Fact Sheets](#)



