

# What's an SLP?

SLP stands for speech-language pathologist. SLPs focus on supporting communication skills. SLPs have a master's degree and maintain state and national certifications. The national credentialing organization is the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. SLPs can work in schools, hospitals, or clinics with both children and adults. In a school setting, SLPs can address a variety of communication needs, such as:

**Speech:** SLPs work on improving a person's speech intelligibility or how well they are understood by others. Articulation means the pronunciation of different speech sounds.

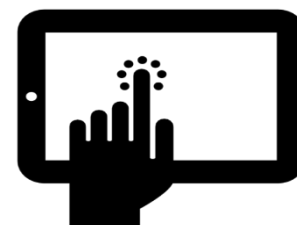


**Language:** Language includes what is understood (receptive language) and what is said (expressive language). This includes skills like following directions, answering questions, grammar, and vocabulary.



**Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):**

AAC includes forms of communication, other than oral speech, used to express communication. This could range from gestures and facial expressions to sign language to pencil and paper or voice output devices.



**Fluency:** People who stutter will sometimes work with an SLP to help make communication easier and more effective.



**Pragmatics:** Social skills or pragmatic language skills include the ability to use verbal and nonverbal social language with others. SLPs work on increasing these skills to improve communication between people.

