

Sara's Garden Speech-Language Pathology

Speech-Language Pathology (or Speech Therapy) is a clinical program aimed at improving speech and language skills and oral motor abilities that will allow clients to communicate more effectively. It works to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults of all ages.



Many conditions, including cerebral palsy, autism, hearing loss, developmental delays, may cause difficulty with speech and language development. Some children may not understand language. Some children may understand language but be unable to communicate effectively. Some experience challenges in other areas of communication, such as hand gestures and facial expressions.

Benefits of Speech Therapy can include:

- Improvement in the ability to understand and express thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Intelligible speech so your child is understood by others
- Increased ability to problem-solve in an independent environment
- Improved swallowing function and safety
- Achievement of school readiness skills
- Development of pre-literacy skills
- Improved vocal quality
- Fluent speech
- Development of practical social skills
- Better quality of life
- Greater self-esteem
- Increased independence

We believe that early intervention is crucial to the development of communication skills and that every client should be viewed individually and treated uniquely according to their learning style and communication needs.



Family support is crucial to a child's learning and parents should be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of their child's needs and progress. Our goal is to collaborate with families to better serve the needs of you and/or your child. At Sara's Garden, we offer an individualized approach to assessing a client's functional capacity and customizing interventions to achieve family-centered goals to enhance client function and achieve even greater independence.



419.335.SARA • www.sarasgarden.org
620 West Leggett Street • Wauseon, OH 43567

SLP at Sara's Garden

Speech Therapy combines diagnostic skills and teaching skills. A speech therapist has been trained to recognize the many causes of speech impediment, including physical, developmental, neurological, and social. They are also trained to determine the most productive methods of treatment. These can range from work with technological visualizing tools to basic practice techniques used to promote clear speech.

Speech Therapy techniques are usually used to treat a variety of problems that include articulation difficulties, fluency problems, and resonance issues. The therapies are classified into three main categories: articulation, language intervention, and oral motor. A combination of techniques from any or all of the categories may be used in a specific situation, depending on the needs of the child.

- **Articulation techniques** concentrate on producing specific sounds of syllables with the child. Patience is essential during these activities so that the child does not get frustrated or discouraged.
- **Language intervention techniques** are not as formal. These sessions revolved more around playing and naturally interacting with the therapist. The goal is to encourage the client to talk more to develop their language abilities.
- **Oral motor techniques** are designed more for physical exercise to help build up certain muscles used in speech and other activities such as eating and swallowing. These exercises strengthen the muscles inside surrounding the mouth, making speech easier and more successful.

Some Speech Therapy techniques may work best with one disorder, while others may work best for another disorder. Determining which techniques will work best for each situation is important, because each child has individual needs and problems so the techniques used should be customized to fit these specialized requirements.

HOPE. HELP. HEALING.