

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

Members of the school literacy team

Uniquely Qualified

SLPs evaluate, diagnose, and treat reading and writing disorders, including dyslexia. They are uniquely trained in theory, assessment, and treatment of disorders in phonology, a common deficit in children with dyslexia (Hogan, 2018).

Literacy Essentials

SLPs are specialists in morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics - areas essential for reading comprehension and writing (Spracher, 2000).

Hidden Disorders

50% of children with reading difficulties also have developmental language disorders (Adlof & Hogan, 2018). Symptoms are often dismissed as inattention or misbehavior (Archibald, n.d.). SLPs can uncover hidden language problems as part of a literacy evaluation (RADLD, n.d.).

CRITICAL & DIRECT ROLES

Speech-language pathologists may hold many roles and responsibilities with literacy. They can provide direct services (assessment, diagnosis, planning, and treatment); prevention and advocacy; and education, administration, and research (ASHA, n.d.). Among those roles are

- diagnosing disorders of reading and writing - including dyslexia
- provision of information to families and agencies working with children at-risk for reading and writing disorders
- collaborating with others as part of a response to intervention team to support speech and language development through indirect or consultative services.
- serving as a member of the interprofessional team within schools and providing a focus on the underlying language elements of the curriculum to help students meet state curriculum standards
- advocating for children with written language disorders at the local, state, and national levels

(ASHA, 2001)

Language & Reading Woven Together

- listening and speaking provide the foundation for the development of reading and writing
- children with language problems often have difficulty learning to read and write
- working on speaking and listening helps develop reading and writing, and working on reading and writing helps to develop speaking and listening

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American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Written Language Disorders. (Practice Portal). Retrieved Jan, 7, 2020, from <https://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Clinical-Topics/Written-Language-Disorders/>

Archibald, L.(n.d.). Why is DLD hard to recognize?. <https://dldandme.org/recognizing-dld/>

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Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder. (n.d.). DLD fact sheet. <https://radld.org/about/dld/dld-fact-sheet/>

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