

Speech & Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy plays an important role in helping people on the autism spectrum develop communication skills, improve social interactions, and express their needs effectively. Speech-Language therapists create individualized plans to support successful speech, language, and social communication.

What is Speech Therapy?

Speech-language therapy helps develop ways to share (expressive language) and understand (receptive language) information vocally, visually, and through body language to improve communication skills.

Speech-language therapy also helps people who are non-speaking or minimally-speaking with alternative communication methods such as picture exchange communication systems (PECS), sign language, or speech-generating devices.

Speech-language therapy may also work on issues related to feeding and swallowing.

Why is Speech-Language Therapy Important?

By improving communication abilities, speech therapy supports people on the autism spectrum to express themselves more effectively, help reduce frustration, and strengthen interactions at home, school, and in social settings.

Speech therapists use strategies such as role-playing, social stories, and interactive games to reinforce communication skills that may include:

- Sharing a moment (joint attention)
- Play-based communication
- Cooperative play
- Social use of language (pragmatic language)
- Using words to express emotions
- Understanding body language
- Turn-taking with others
- Understanding and processing language
- Producing clear, understandable speech (articulation)

Who do you contact for more information?



Primary care physician



Local school district