



SLP

Resources:



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What is an SLP and why is it important for my child and family to work with one?

- SLP stands for Speech-Language Pathologist. Speech-language pathologists (SLP's) work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults.
- A SLP has a master's degree in Speech Language Pathology and has met the requirements to be a credentialed Early Intervention (EI) Provider.
- In Illinois' EI system SLP's are automatically able to provide services in aural rehabilitation (AR) and speech therapy (ST) categories.
- All SLP's have basic knowledge of hearing loss. It is important for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (d/hh) to work with SLP's who have additional specialized knowledge or experience in working with children who are d/hh or are willing to acquire that knowledge.
- Families can start working with an SLP even before their child begins saying words. If there is a concern about a child's communication, they can be evaluated by an SLP as early as 2-3 months old.
- Some SLP's have knowledge to provide guidance and strategies around feeding, swallowing, and oral motor delays or disorders. If a child needs support for feeding and speech therapy they may need to use more than one provider to co-treat and provide these specialized services.
- It's important to find a SLP who understands your chosen communication mode so they can appropriately communicate with your child.
- An SLP through EI can work with your child and your family until your child is 3 years old and then ages out of the EI program.