

Speech & Language Program

Speech and Language Pathologist

Speech and language pathologists are certified and licensed professionals specifically trained to identify and remediate speech, language and hearing disorders.

Speech and Language Disorders

A speech and language disorder is the inability to understand and/or appropriately use speech and language in a meaningful way. Disorders may vary in severity from slight misarticulations to complete inability to communicate.

Speech Disorders

Articulation

Difficulty in producing and combining sounds correctly, which includes substituting one sound for another (wun/run), omitting a sound (tar/star), and distorting sounds.

Voice

Difficulty in controlling vocal productions which include pitch, loudness and quality of voice.

Fluency

Repetitions or lengthening of sounds, syllables, words, or phrases that interrupt or stop the flow of speech. Also known as “stuttering.”

Language Disorders

Language Comprehension

The inability to understand language which includes vocabulary, concepts, grammar, syntax, and question forms.

Language Production

The inability to produce language in clear, concise, grammatically correct sentences.

Language Processing

The inability to listen, understand, remember and recall auditory information.

Verbal Thinking

The inability to use language in the process of thinking.

Causes of Speech and Language Disorders

Physical

Hearing loss or chronic ear infections, cerebral palsy, severe head injury, cleft palate, or any disease, disorder or injury that affects the ability to produce speech and language.

Developmental Disabilities

Other disabilities such as cognitive or learning disabilities.

Other contributing factors

Inadequate stimulation and modeling of speech and language in the environment, emotional difficulties, misuse or abuse of the vocal cords, etc.

Services the Speech and Language Program Offers

Identification

1. **Preschool Screening:** an annual screening of three and four year olds is scheduled in the fall at school for district families. Individual screenings are also available upon request.
2. **Kindergarten Screening:** a full complement of staff is “on hand” during the kindergarten screening for children entering kindergarten.
3. **Parent, Doctor, Teacher, Other:** A parent, doctor, teacher or any interested person from the school or community can refer for assessment a child with a suspected speech/language disability.

Assessment

Parental permission is obtained prior to any testing. The IEP team, which includes the speech and language pathologist determines if a speech and language problem exists, the severity of the problem, and may identify the possible causes.

Individual Education Program Team Process (IEP)

An IEP Team reviews existing data and the results of the assessment and determines whether the student exhibits an impairment and the need for special education in the area of speech/language.

If a speech/language disability and the need of special education is determined, an individual education program is written. An IEP is designed to best meet the academic, social, and vocational needs of the student. Specific goals and objectives are outlined. The IEP Team also develops a placement offer that indicates the setting in which the plan will be implemented. Written parent consent to the placement is required prior to the delivery of services outlined in the IEP.

Speech and Language Programming

1. **Preschool Itinerant:** Students ages 3–5 attend sessions at the elementary school.
2. **Early Childhood Resource:** Students 3-5 years of age who have speech and language needs and also exhibit needs in other areas of development receive speech and language programming as part of their Early Childhood Program.
3. **Kindergarten through Senior High:** Students receive instruction in their respective buildings for specified amounts of time.
4. **Consulting Services:** Regular and special education teachers, classroom teachers, assistants and others receive information regarding speech and language, suggestions for generalizing newly learned skills to the classroom and home, strategies on how to work with the student in the classroom and at home and suggestions in adapting curriculum.

Speech/Language

Program

Statement of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of the School District of Poynette that no person may be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital, or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability.

For more information contact:
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**POYNETTE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Poynette, Wisconsin**