

What is a Speech Pathologist?



Speech Pathologists (SPs) work with the LINKS team to help you with your communication skills. This could mean things like:

- Understanding words, sentences and longer conversations.
- Saying words clearly so other people can understand.
- Putting words together to share information, thoughts, feelings and opinions.
- Using your voice in the ways that you need and want to.
- Reading and writing.
- Interacting with different people in different types of relationships, and building or maintaining friendships.

SPs can help you identify the areas of communication you find difficult. This might include:

- Using sentences to tell stories and talk about things you have done. These are examples of *oral narrative skills*.
- Understanding instructions and conversations used in family, classroom and friendship groups. These are examples of *receptive language skills*.
- Using and understanding different types of words. This is called *vocabulary development*.
- Reading and writing, also known as *literacy skills*.
- Using social interaction skills across different types of relationships. This is called *pragmatic communication skills*.
- Using language that is not about the here and now, such as sarcasm and humour. These skills are called *higher-level language skills*.

SPs might also check in with the development of your eating and drinking skills.