

What is a Speech Pathologist?

A Speech Pathologist (previously known as a speech therapist) has an essential role in helping children and adults to communicate effectively. Communication is our key role as well as assisting with swallowing disorders.

Speech pathologists work in many different settings (i.e. schools, hospitals, Community and Child Health, private practice, and disability centres). A Speech Pathologist assesses, diagnoses and treats a vast range of communication disorders. These include: difficulties comprehending language, expression; which also encompasses reading and spelling skills, pronunciation, auditory processing difficulties and swallowing disorders.

The following case scenarios may give you an idea as to whether your child would benefit from a speech pathology assessment.

First scenario:

A mother brought her 2 year old daughter in for a speech and language assessment. Sarah was a friendly girl who enjoyed playing with the toys but had difficulty maintaining attention and became easily distracted in her environment.

Her mother explained that she had no difficulties at birth and had not had any major illnesses. She mentioned that she was slow to crawl, walk and was not saying any words that were recognizable. Sarah communicated by grunting or vocalising or pointing and pulling her mother to an object she wanted. Her mother also stated that she had had numerous ear infections over the past year. Sarah has 2 older sisters who talk all the time for her.

It would be recommended that Sarah has some speech pathology intervention. At the age of 2 years she should be using little sentences i.e. “no more bikky” and have an extensive single word vocabulary. It would also be recommended that Sarah has a full audiology assessment with the possibility of grommets (tubes) needing to be inserted to clear and drain the ear of fluid therefore decreasing the chance of further middle ear infections. A hearing loss effects the way your child speaks.

Second scenario:

A 4 year old boy was brought in for a speech and language assessment. Tom had age appropriate language skills and had had no complications at birth or any significant medical illnesses. Tom had a hearing assessment which indicated he had normal hearing.

Tom’s mother was concerned about his dysfluency or stuttering. Tom repeated words “and, and, and”, initial sounds of words “b b b ball” and often couldn’t get any sound out at all when he was trying to speak. She explained that Tom was becoming very frustrated with himself and starting to become embarrassed that he could not talk properly.

He also seemed to stutter more when he was excited and needed to get his words out quickly. There was a family history of stuttering.

It would be wise for Tom to have a Speech Pathology assessment. A child may go through a period of dysfluency between the ages of 3 to 4 ½ years. This stage is characterised by: “simple” or easy repetitions of sounds, words or phrases, no awareness or anxiety about stuttering and no secondary characteristics such as eye blinking or face twitching. The above scenario suggests that Tom has a stutter that is not developmental in nature. It is recommended that he receive speech pathology intervention early as once he becomes an adult it is becomes much harder to change his patterns of dysfluency.

Remember: Contact Tyquin Group Speech Pathology should you have any queries concerning your child’s speech and language ability.

About Tyquin group

Tyquin group is a professional clinic containing a practice of Speech Pathology and a Reading Clinic .

As speech pathologists, we are working toward helping the 14% of Australians that have a communication disability. In order to do this we actively promote not only our practice but the profession as a whole.

Language and Communication sciences over recent years have made enormous advances. Unfortunately there is little awareness of the large and diverse role that Speech Pathologists can play in the support and education of our young learning children.

In our Reading Clinic, we aim to help poor readers when other attempts have failed. We willingly explore the best technology on offer anywhere in the world. We also develop techniques to use in concert with this technology in order to achieve the most effective results.

Philosophically we strive to achieve results quickly. Though this is sometimes ambitious and not always possible, we believe that it is a worthy goal.

Tyquin group invites you to regard us as a point of contact for further information about any queries you may have.

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What is a Speech Pathologist?

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