



What can OSCAR Speech Pathologists do for the children in your care?

By Delaney Sadler, OSCAR Care Group Speech Pathologist

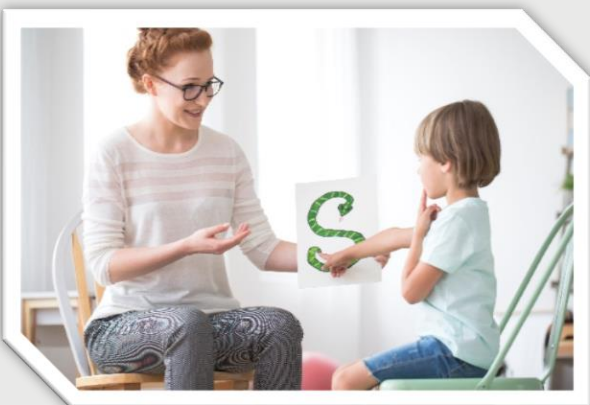
Oscar Care Group Speech Pathologists provide a range of services for the children in your care.

What does a Speech Pathologist do?

A Speech Pathologist works with a variety of conditions, in different settings across the lifespan. Speech Pathologists diagnose, assess and treat disorders of communication or swallowing.

Speech Pathologists work across a range of settings, often within a multi-disciplinary team. These settings include:

- Hospitals
- Community Health centres
- Rehabilitation centres
- Private clinics
- Aged Care facilities
- Schools and preschools
- Specialist centres
- Universities



Speech Pathologists can support individuals with conditions occurring from birth including developmental delay, learning disability, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy or hearing loss.

Additionally, Speech Pathologists assist individuals with acquired conditions such as stroke, brain injuries, dementia, hearing loss or progressive neurological disorders.





Speech Pathology has a broad scope of practice. Major areas of practice for Speech Pathologists in both paediatric and adult populations are speech, language, social communication, cognitive communication, voice, fluency, multimodal communication and swallowing.

Below are 7 ways our Speech Pathologists can assist when working with children.

1. Speech

Speech refers to the way individuals pronounce sounds and put them together into words. Paediatric speech disorders include phonological disorders, articulation disorders, childhood dysarthria or Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Speech Pathologists can diagnose these conditions, give staff, family and residents strategies for optimising understanding and provide therapy to assist sound and word production.

2. Language

Language refers to understanding what people say to you and how you express your wants and needs. This includes one's ability to talk, listen, understand language, read and write. Paediatric language disorders include late language emergence, language delay and language disorder. Speech Pathologists can diagnose language disorders and provide therapy to children.

3. Social Communication

Social communication refers to the norms and conventions of conversation such as turn taking and adjusting language or tone to the audience. Speech Pathologists can provide strategies and therapy to aid social communication.

4. Voice

Voice is the way sound is produced as it passes through the vocal folds and exits the oral or nasal passages. Voice disorders may present with your voice being hoarse or rough, losing your voice, talking too quietly or too loudly or with sound coming through the nose instead of the mouth. Speech Pathologists can provide and teach voice exercises and educate individuals on ways to optimise voice use.



5. Fluency

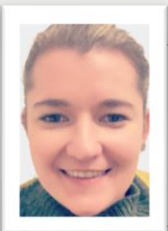
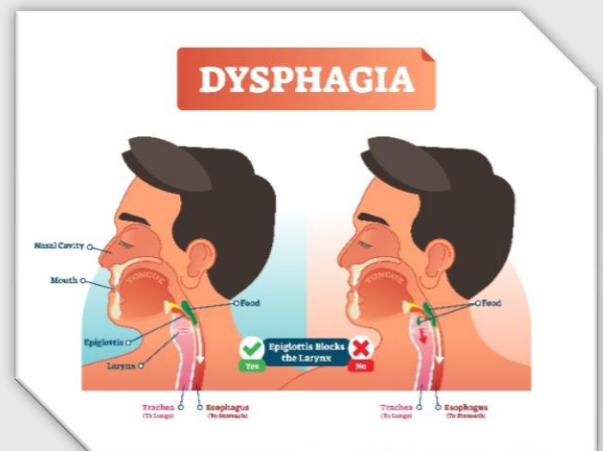
Fluency disorders are better known as stuttering. This can develop when the child is young and first starting to talk or a couple of years later. Fluency therapy can be delivered by a trained Speech Pathologist to reduce or eliminate the stutter.

6. Multimodal Communication

Multimodal communication refers to individuals who require a mode other than verbal speech to communicate or to support their communication. This may include picture boards or Key Word Sign. Speech Pathologists can determine the most appropriate method of communication, set up a communication device or system and educate individuals and families on how to use the device or system.

7. Swallowing

Swallowing refers to the way we suck, chew, bite, prepare and swallow our foods and fluids. When someone has a breakdown in the swallow process it is termed dysphagia. Children can have swallowing difficulties as an infant due to incoordination between swallowing and breathing. As children reach preschool years they may present with avoidance of textures or “fussy eating”. Speech Pathologists can assess swallow function, provide diet or fluid modification, educate on postural, environmental or equipment changes or provide therapy to assist with texture avoidance.



Need help assisting a child with Dysphagia or Communication Difficulty?

This article was written by OSCAR Care Group Speech Pathologist, Delaney Sadler. Please contact Delaney via our details below.



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