

# WHAT DIAGNOSES DOES A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST TREAT?

## SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

Articulation and phonology. May be developmental but may also be due to:

- ♦ Reduced strength in the articulators (tongue, lips, jaw, palate, teeth)
- ♦ Reduced coordination
- ♦ Structural anomalies (short frenulum, cleft lip/palate)

**SLPs can provide behavioral therapy to elicit age appropriate speech production.**

## OROFACIAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS

Aberrant and exaggerated anterior lingual movement during speech or swallowing (tongue thrust). This affects sounds and swallow ability.

**SLPs can provide behavioral therapies which may reduce tongue thrust and its impact on dentition.**

## RESONANCE DISORDERS

A disruption in the way air flows through the oral and nasal cavity:

- ♦ **Hypernasality:** too much air (e.g. cleft palate)
- ♦ **Hyponasality:** obstructed airflow secondary to nasal blockage (e.g. hypertrophic adenoids)

**Nasal obstruction can result in obligatory mouth breathing and open mouth posture.**

## LANGUAGE DISORDERS

Difficulty using and understanding spoken, written, and other symbol systems. The disorder may involve difficulty with:

- ♦ **Form:** how sounds, parts of words (e.g. -ing), word phrases (e.g. a noun phrase) and sentence types (interrogative) form expressive/receptive language (e.g. syntax, morphology, and phonology)
- ♦ **Content:** semantics or meaning of expressive/receptive language
- ♦ **Use:** function or pragmatics of expressive/receptive language. Reasons for talking (e.g. to request, to deny), discourse skills (e.g. topic maintenance, turn-taking), and the ability to be flexible

**Facilitation of age-appropriate language skills can help with interactions and care of the pediatric population.**

## BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Includes the following:

- ♦ Difficulties with turn-taking and attention-span
- ♦ Need for behavioral reinforcement for age-appropriate behaviors related to speech, language and swallow function
- ♦ Facilitation of age appropriate social skills

**SLPs can help your patients' in-seat behavior.**

## SENSORY INTEGRATION DYSFUNCTION DISORDERS

Increased or decreased sensitivity to stimuli.

**SLPs can help desensitize children who have difficulty being touched in the oral cavity.**

## DYSPHAGIA OR FEEDING & SWALLOWING DISORDERS

Difficulty with the oral, pharyngeal or esophageal stages of swallowing.

**Dental anomalies may cause oral stage dysphagia.**