



Better Hearing & Speech Month Speech Language Pathology: More Than Just Words



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Hi everybody, my name is Kelly Harlan and I am one of the speech therapists on the All for the Kids team. I am so excited to be sharing with you today through our video series "Opening Doors to Development."

We are now in the month of May, which is an exciting month in the speech therapy world, because May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

That means, during the month of May we will be working to raise awareness about a variety of speech and language disorders, discussing strategies that you as parents and teachers can use with your children, also sharing with you about the role of a speech therapist in terms of treatment.

To start off, I wanted to briefly go over this fun graphic that really does a great job of mapping out the scope of the Speech Language Pathologist.

So, as speech therapists, we work with all age groups, from newborn infants, all the way up to our elderly population. We work with patients with diagnosis such as developmental disorders, feeding disorders, genetic disorders, brain injury and stroke, as well as progressive neurological disorders.

Sometimes when people hear that I am a pediatric speech therapist, they will ask "Oh so you help kids learn to speak?" And while that is one area of communication that we work on in therapy, we are also trained to provide treatment in several other areas including Motor Speech Disorders, Expressive and Receptive Language, Articulation, Fluency, Reading, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices, Swallowing Disorders, as well as working with those with hearing impairments.



See why we need a whole month dedicated to raising awareness of communication disorders? There is a lot to touch on in this incredible field.

Before I get into one of my favorite areas of speech and language treatment, I wanted to quickly go over with you what types of settings you might find a speech therapist.



Speech therapists diagnose and treat communication and swallowing disorders in many different settings including hospitals, the NICU, skilled nursing facilities, the school system, and then finally in private practices where the speech therapists will work in either a clinic site, or the client's familiar environment. And this is the setting that we use and love at All for the Kids where we work with your child at their home, school or daycare. I really enjoy this type of setting, because it allows for us as therapists to collaborate and demonstrate carryover techniques with both our client's teachers and parents, so this really gives us a good opportunity to get most of the major adult influences involved in the child's treatment plan.

Ok so now that we've gone over a little background information on the field of Speech Language Pathology, I wanted to share with you about one of my favorite areas of treatment, and that is early language development.

Kids who struggle with language development may fall into the Expressive and Receptive Language Disorder category that I mentioned earlier. What that means is that they may be struggling to share ideas, thoughts, and feelings verbally, which would be considered an expressive language disorder. Or they may have difficulty understanding what others are saying or following directions which we would call a receptive language disorder.

I'm going to go over a few fun activities that you can do with your kids to work on Expressive and Receptive language skills.

I'm sure many of you have heard about the importance of reading with your kids. Books are a fantastic resource for expanding your child's language.

I really like to use books with repetitive wording, brightly colored pictures, and I don't necessarily always read them word for word. I like to ask the kids open ended questions or make comments about the book as I'm reading them.



For example, here's one of my favorite books to use, Brown Bear Brown Bear. This book has simple brightly colored pictures, with repetitive phrasing throughout the book and gives us a good opportunity to expand our language discussing animals, their sounds, colors, and more

I'm going to model for you how I would use this book in therapy: "Brown bear brown bear what do you see...".

Another strategy that I like to use and share with my parents is binary choice, and what that means is I'm going to give the child two options and then I want them to tell me what they want. I might say Ok Johnny we're going to play, do you want the ball or the bubbles and so now I've given him his two choices and he has to say ball or bubbles, therefore giving me a verbal response instead of just grabbing what he wants. Let's say he chooses the ball, we can then say do you want me to roll it or toss the ball, and then maybe after a few turns he's done so I'll ask him, "Do you want more ball or all done.?"

So, by using binary choice, Johnny has now told us he wants the ball, he wants to roll it, and then that he's all done. Binary choice can be used throughout the day do you want milk or water, cheese or yogurt, puzzle or book, and so on.

I also always encourage parents to talk about the things they're doing throughout the day, this exposes your child to so much language and is a great way to build vocabulary. If you're putting your child in the car you would say Ok, mommy is putting you in the car, let's buckle your buckles, if you drive past a firetruck you can comment oh look there's a fire truck woo woo.

I'm going to share one more receptive language strategy with you, I use this with my little boy at home. We have structured clean up time and this let's work on understanding vocabulary and following directions. I'll say we made a mess here are our blocks and I'll point to the blocks, let's clean up the blocks, put blocks in the box, books on the shelf, and just like that you are working on understanding vocabulary, following directions, and bonus the room will be cleaned up

Ok well, that is all I have for you today, thank you so much for listening, be sure to ask us any questions and check in on our All for the Kids page throughout the month of May to learn more about the field of speech therapy during Better Hearing and Speech Month

Don't forget to review the speech pathologist graphic below, and please let us know if you have questions regarding this information! We would be more than happy to explain anything above in more detail!

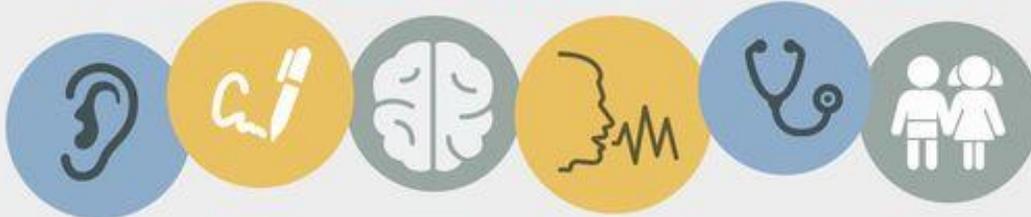
Thanks so much!

Kelly Harlan, M.A., CCC-SLP

All for the Kids Therapy Services

Inspiring your kids to continue to learn and grow!

THE SCOPE OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST



Speech-Language Pathology is a medically-aligned field that requires an advanced degree such as a master's or doctorate to practice.



Premature and Full-Term Infants

Children Adolescents

Adults

Geriatrics

Developmental Disorders

Genetic Disorders

Stroke and Brain Injury

Progressive Neurological Disorders

Cognitive Communication Disorders

Feeding Disorders Hearing Impairments Literacy
Fluency Motor Speech Disorders

Social Communication Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Speech Sound Disorders

Expressive and Receptive Language Disorders Voice Disorders

Dysphagia (Swallowing Disorders)

CLINICAL SETTINGS

SLPs diagnose and treat communication, swallowing, and related disorders of the oropharyngeal mechanism in the following settings:

