

To Help Your Professional Relationship With Your Speech-Language Pathologist, You Should:

- ◆ Answer all health-related questions completely and accurately.
- ◆ Ask questions to help you understand your disorder and your treatment.
- ◆ Follow any instructions that your speech-language pathologist may give you.

COMPLAINTS — What To Do If You Have a Complaint

To file a complaint, you may call the Board office at (916) 263-2666 and request a complaint form. Or, you may send a letter to the Board office summarizing your grievance. The Board reviews complaints pertaining to fraud, incompetence, unlicensed practice, sexual misconduct, or conviction of a criminal offense related to the profession. Complaints regarding general business practices or personality conflicts are not within the jurisdiction of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board (SLPAB)



The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board is a state agency within the Department of Consumer Affairs. The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board licenses and regulates speech-language pathologists and audiologists. The Board's mission is to protect the consumer by requiring adherence to statutes and regulations designed to ensure the qualifications and competency of providers of speech-language pathology and audiology services.

**Speech-Language Pathology
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A CONSUMER GUIDE TO

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY



What You Should Know About Speech Problems

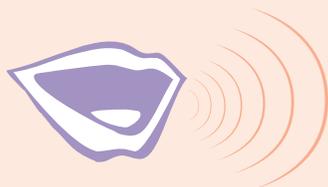
A Consumer Guide to SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

What Is a Speech-Language Pathologist?

A speech-language pathologist is a licensed health care professional who screens, identifies, assesses, refers, and provides treatment to persons with — or at risk for — speech, voice, language, communication, swallowing, and related disabilities.

How to Locate a Speech-Language Pathologist

Speech-language pathologists work in a variety of settings, including private practices, clinics, hospitals, and schools. To locate a licensed speech-language pathologist, you may obtain a referral from your primary care physician or pediatrician, a public health nurse, or a personal friend. Speech-language pathologists can also be located in your local telephone yellow pages under “Speech & Language Pathologists” or “Speech Therapists.”



Speech and hearing clinics may be available:

- ◆ In the local community.
- ◆ At a college or university.
- ◆ In a hospital or medical clinic.

You may call professional organizations for assistance in locating a speech-language pathologist. The Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board cannot refer you to a practitioner.

Guidelines for Judging a Speech-Language Pathologist's Professional Qualifications

To practice in the state of California, an individual must hold a current, valid, speech-language pathology license from the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board.

To get a license, the individual must have obtained the appropriate master's degree or equivalent, completed the specified number of clinical practicum hours, worked in the speech-language pathology field under supervision for not less than 36 weeks, and passed the national written exam.

Certain settings are exempt from licensure (working in public preschools, elementary or secondary schools, and federal agencies).

You may check the status of a speech-language pathologist's license by calling the Board at (916) 263-2666.

When To Use Services of a Speech-Language Pathologist

Anyone at any age can have a speech or language problem. The earlier the problem is diagnosed and therapy begun, the better the chances of successful treatment.

Speech and language development is not a separate function but a continuous process involving every aspect of the individual — intellectual, motor, emotional, and social. Therefore, problems of speech and language may need not only speech and language evaluations, but also medical or psychological evaluations.

How a Speech-Language Pathologist Will Help

Speech-language pathologists are trained to evaluate speech and language problems. They plan and carry out programs to correct or modify the disorder or to develop other means of communicating. A speech-language pathologist also counsels individuals and families in managing the problem.

Speech-language pathologists are often members of health care teams. Depending upon the nature of the problem, they may work with physicians, surgeons, orthodontists, psychologists, educators, counselors, or social workers.