

Frequently Asked Questions Speech Pathologists and ASD

What might Speech Pathologists do for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

(Source Autism Victoria Brochure, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists: What do they do?)

Speech Pathologists' may provide support for children in the following areas:

- Receptive Language. How a child understands information either verbally or in written form.
- Expressive Language. How a child expresses their needs and wants, thought and feelings. This may involve using picture symbols, signs/gestures or communication devices.
- Articulation. How a child makes sounds in words
- Social Skills. Understanding the social rules or conversation.
- Cognitive Skills. Problem solving, making predications, making inferences.

Speech Pathologists may also have some input in the following areas:

- Stuttering
- Eating and Drinking: e.g. working with children who have difficulties wearing and drinking safely.
- Saliva Control
- Voice Phonological Awareness: e.g. skills such as rhyming

How can I access a Speech Pathologist?

The services of a Speech Pathologist can be accessed through the FaHCSIA "Helping Children with Autism" package. You may also like to ask your GP for a referral through a "Chronic Disease Management Plan" (Formerly known as an Enhanced Primary Care plan.)

For more information please see the website of Speech Pathology Australia
www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au