

www.txsha.org

Celebrate **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month** with the **Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (TSHA)**!

In the state of Texas, there are approximately 11,000 speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

The mission of our association is to empower speech-language pathologists and audiologists in the spirit of partnership with consumers and families. The TSHA is committed to achieving excellence in education, professional development, and leadership.





The **Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association** celebrates
May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

www.txsha.org

What is Communication?

COMMUNICATION refers to all the different ways we give and receive messages. It can involve speech, language, sign language, pictures, print, gestures, facial expressions, body language, etc.

LANGUAGE refers to a system of words and how words are put together to convey meaning. We often divide language into two categories: receptive and expressive.

Receptive language refers to how well a person understands or comprehends words and sentences.

- ▶ How well do you follow directions?
- ▶ Do you typically understand and follow along with what people are talking about?

Expressive language refers to how well a person uses words and sentences. This includes the ability to use appropriate vocabulary and grammar structure.

- ▶ Can you describe your favorite book or movie in a way that others understand?
- ▶ Can you express your wants and needs in a manner that others understand?
- ▶ Can you have a conversation with others?

Pragmatic language refers to how a person develops meaningful relationships and understands/uses social rituals and rules. Examples include:

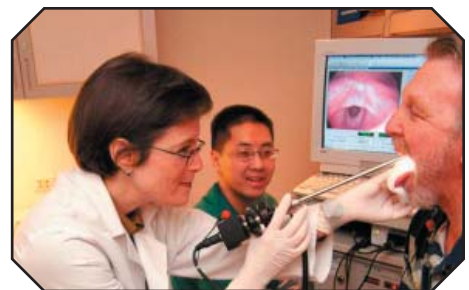
- ▶ Using language for different purposes, such as greeting, informing, demanding, promising, and requesting;
- ▶ Adapting or changing language according to the needs or expectations of a listener or situation;
- ▶ Following rules for conversations; there are rules for taking turns in conversation, introducing topics of conversation, staying on the topic, rephrasing when misunderstood, and telling a story; and
- ▶ Using rules for appropriate nonverbal signals in conversation; distance between speaker and listener, facial expressions, and eye contact. Rules may vary depending on language and culture.

SPEECH articulation refers to how speech sounds are made and how they sound. It is commonly referred to as “pronunciation.”

FLUENCY refers to how smoothly a person is able to produce a continuous, uninterrupted, effortless flow of speech; speech that is not hindered by excessive dysfluencies.

VOICE refers to the pitch and vocal quality of a person’s speech.

Paul, R. (2001). *Language Disorders from Infancy through Adolescence: Assessment and Intervention*. St. Louis, MO: Mosby. (www.asha.org)





The **Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association** celebrates
May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

www.txsha.org

What is a Speech-Language Pathologist?

A speech-language pathologist works with the full range of communication disorders.

Here are a few of the things that we do...

- ▶ Treat, evaluate and diagnose speech, language, and swallowing disorders in individuals of all ages, from infants to the elderly.
- ▶ Prepare future professionals in colleges and universities.
- ▶ Engage in research to enhance knowledge about human communication processes.
- ▶ Develop new methods and equipment to test and evaluate problems.
- ▶ Establish more effective treatment.
- ▶ Investigate behavioral patterns associated with communication disorders.
- ▶ Consult with staff and parents.
- ▶ Collaborate between evaluation specialists, teachers, and parents.
- ▶ Attend conventions and conferences to learn new techniques and to update previously learned information.
- ▶ Serve home school and private school students.

AND a whole lot more...

We often work as part of a team that may include teachers, physicians, audiologists, psychologists, social workers, rehabilitation counselors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and others. Corporate speech-language pathologists also work with employees to improve communication with their clients.

What is an Audiologist?

Communication skills are critical to a successful life for all Americans. Communication disorders greatly affect education, employment, and the well-being of many Americans. However, each day is a challenge for 1 in 6 Americans who have a communication disability, and for their families ⁽¹⁾.

- ▶ Do you need to be facing the person that is speaking to you?
- ▶ Do you lose your balance?
- ▶ Is it harder for you to hear your friends and family members?
- ▶ Do you find yourself turning up the volume on the TV or radio?
- ▶ Do you hear a ringing sound in your ears?
- ▶ Do you have any pain or discomfort in your ears?
- ▶ Do you have a family history of hearing loss?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, then you may want to visit with an audiologist. Did you know that audiologists can assess and treat hearing loss? They also select, fit, and dispense amplification systems such as hearing aids. They can help prevent hearing loss by educating you on ways to protect your hearing.

If you feel that you, or anyone you know or care about, need an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, please visit the TSHA website at www.txsha.org. Your hearing is important to us!

(1) National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. (2003, June 25). Strategic plan: Plain language version FY 2003-2005.



The **Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association** celebrates
May is Better Hearing and Speech Month!

www.txsha.org

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

What is a speech and language disorder?

Speech and language disorders refer to problems in communication and related areas such as oral-motor function. These delays and disorders range from simple sound substitutions to the inability to understand or use language or use the oral-motor mechanism for functional speech and eating. Some causes of speech and language disorders include hearing loss, neurological disorders, brain injury, mental retardation, drug abuse, physical impairments such as cleft lip or palate, and vocal abuse or misuse. Frequently, however, the cause is unknown.

Who helps people with a speech and language disorder?

A professionally trained speech-language pathologist or audiologist!

Speech and language disorders take many different forms and look different at the various levels and stages of life. Speech-language pathologists work with swallowing disorders, hearing impairments, voice disorders, and any other disability that may impact communication in any way.

Speech and language disorders can affect every area of a person's life. Adults and children with hearing, speech, or language disorders often have trouble completing school work or job assignments, following directions, answering questions, and making meaningful friendships. All of these challenges may eventually lead to difficulty with living a full and enjoyable life.

We may not be able to correct every speech and language disorder, but we teach strategies to help people cope with their disabilities and achieve an improved quality of life.

Did you know that...

- ▶ One in six Americans has a hearing, speech, or language problem - a condition that makes it difficult to communicate with others. Untreated, these problems can limit an individual at home, school, and work.
- ▶ An estimated 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can be treated; yet fewer than 7,000,000 use a hearing aid. You could be one of them. Now is a good time to consider your own hearing and seek help if you think you may have a problem.

How do you find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist? Contact the TSHA at 888-SAY-TSHA! For additional information, visit www.txsha.org.

*During **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**, take the time to call your state legislator and say 'thank you' for his or her service to our great state! For additional information on the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology, visit www.txsha.org or contact the **Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association** at 888-SAY-TSHA (888-729-8742).*