



Speech and Hearing BC

Why the school speech-language pathologist matters?

10 reasons to advocate for your students with communication disorders.



1. Children with language impairments have poorer academic performance and a higher likelihood of having a learning disability than children in the general population

2. 40%-75% of preschoolers with early speech-language disorders develop reading problems in school

3. Children with diagnosed reading disabilities often have poorer language skills than children without reading disabilities

4. Speech and language impairments negatively impact mental health. For example, increased rates of anxiety disorders have been reported in children with speech and language disorders

5. Approximately 81% of children who are accessing help for an emotional-behavioural disorder have been shown to have below-average language proficiency

6. Teenagers with language disorders are two and half times more likely to report symptoms of depression than their typically developing peers

7. Approximately two-thirds of children (64%) with persisting language disorder exhibit some externalizing behaviours (e.g. conduct problems, aggression) and/or internalizing difficulties (e.g. social withdrawal)

8. Recent research also found that 47% of 93 young offenders demonstrated significantly lower language skills than expected for their age and the majority of those individuals had not received support from an S-LP

9. Speech and language impairments affect between 3 and 16 percent of children, depending on the age and type of impairment

10. As outlined by RADLD, an international campaign for Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder, data indicate that about 2 students in every classroom will experience a language disorder

Who is your speech-language pathologist?

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:
School Advocacy Letter 1 & 2

Speech-language pathologists can support your work with these students in these areas

- Academic success
- Universal design for learning
- Core competencies
- Phonological awareness
- Social development
- Emotional regulation
- Literacy