

Speech and Language

What is Speech and Language?

Language is a socially shared set of rules that enables users to transmit ideas and desires to one another.

Components of language include:

Syntax - word order

Morphology - word beginnings and ending

Phonology - the sounds of language

Semantics - word meaning

Pragmatics - social rules of language including paralinguistics (non-verbal modes of communication)

Speech is a verbal means of communicating or conveying meaning.

Components of speech include:

Articulation - physical formation of sounds

Voice

Fluency/Stuttering

For more information visit: <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

What is the purpose of a Speech and Language Evaluation?

The purpose of a speech and language evaluation is to determine if a child possesses any delay in speech or language development. Strengths and weaknesses are identified and how they related to academic, social and emotional skills.

What is involved in a Speech and Language Evaluation?

A licensed speech-language pathologist will complete the evaluation.

Review of previous evaluations.

A case history will be obtained to gain important developmental information and expectations for the evaluation.

Observations may occur at home and/or school settings if possible to assist in determining current level of speech and language skills in natural contexts.

Assessment may include a combination of observation, standardized and dynamic assessment.

A written report will be provided outlining tools used during the assessment, results and recommendations.

Feedback/consultation will be provided regarding results.

For more complete information about speech and language see the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) website at: www.asha.org

Sources:

American Speech and Hearing Association, www.asha.org

Language Development, Robert E. Owens, Jr.