

# Speech and Language School Based Therapy

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Students may be considered to have a communication disorder if there is a documented speech or language impairment such as stuttering, voice disorder, language impairment, or impaired articulation which adversely affects a **student's educational performance** and requires specially designed instruction.

A speech-language pathologist not only provides therapy for articulation, stuttering and voice problems, an SLP specializes in language delays/disorders. Just because a student's speech doesn't "sound funny", a referral to the SLP should be made if you have a concern about her/his: receptive language (what s/he understands) and/or; expressive language (what s/he communicates verbally)



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Teachers can be excellent judges as to whether there is a suspected language problem. If the student is performing well below his/her peers with respect to following oral directions, understanding and using vocabulary/concepts, and/or verbalizing appropriate sentence structure and grammar, there is a valid concern

regarding the student's language development.

Speech Referral Implications: children performing well below the average range of functioning on standardized language testing would be eligible for SLP services. This does not include English as a Second Language, unless the child demonstrates delays in his or her native language.

Eligibility requirements for speech therapy depend on the age of the student, number of speech errors, and developmental inappropriateness of the error sounds. Voiced and voiceless sound errors count as one sound error. The articulation errors must have an educational impact.

Parents who are concerned that their child may have a speech disorder are encouraged to discuss concerns with the classroom teacher. Requests for screening and evaluation for children ages **3 years to 5 years** may be directly referred to L.H.U.S.D.'s Developmental Preschool located at Smoketree Elementary School at 928-505-6033. You may find more information on Child Find on the L.H.U.S.D.'s website at [www.havasu.k12.az.us/specialservices/childfind.htm](http://www.havasu.k12.az.us/specialservices/childfind.htm).

## SLP Services for a Student with Articulation Development Problems

By the end of Preschool (five years old)	k, g, f, y, p, b, t, d, n, m, w, h, ing
By the end of Kindergarten (six years old)	All of the above sounds ,l, l in blends, s, s in blends
By the end of First Grade (seven years old)	All of the above sounds, sh, ch, j
By the end of Second Grade (eight years old)	All of the above sounds, r, r in blends
After Eight	Should have all sounds