

The role of a **speech-language pathologist** is to assess, diagnose, treat, and help prevent communication and swallowing disorders in children and adults.



## SPEECH/LANGUAGE

- Slurred speech
- Difficulty with word-finding
- Difficulty with verbal communication
- Difficulty understanding other people
- At risk for injury due to inability to communicate in an emergency
- No purposeful speech/nonsense speech
- sudden cease of verbal communication



## DYSPHAGIA

- No swallow reflex
- Difficulty getting food to mouth
- Drooling when eating
- Difficulty chewing
- Coughing
- Choking
- Recurring cases of pneumonia
- Food falling out of mouth
- Pocketing in cheek
- Sudden decrease in consumption intake
- Sudden weight loss
- Medically fragile people with GERD
- Avoiding solid foods requiring chewing
- Excessive chewing before swallowing
- Gurgly/wet voice after swallowing
- Inability to extract liquids from a straw
- Nasal regurgitation
- Easily distracted while eating
- Difficulty taking medication
- Complaints of pain or discomfort when swallowing



## DIAGNOSES

- Parkinson's
- Stroke
- Huntingtons
- Dementia/Alzheimer's disease
- ALS
- Brain tumor
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Subdural hematoma/hemorrhage



## COGNITIVE-COMMUNICATION

- Difficulty anticipating consequences of own actions
- Poor organization, with limited problem solving and judgement
- Limited insight/awareness of extent of difficulties
- Difficult changing routine or learning new rule
- Difficulty counting to 10
- Extremely impaired attention and memory with impulsivity
- Reduced memory, judgement, and ability to initiate and effectively exchange routine information
- Disruption of ability to fulfill educational or vocational roles
- Difficulty planning completing necessary daily activities difficulty following directions
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty understanding or managing personal finances



## VOICE

- Hypernasal or hyponasal voice
- Hoarse, breathy, weak voice
- Quiet or Tight voice
- Tremulous voice
- Laryngospasms and/or paradoxical vocal fold movement



## PRAGMATICS

- Reduced social communication skills and/or ability to manage emotions, often causing loss of relationships
- Becoming agitated when needs are not met
- Limited eye contact
- Exhibiting socially inappropriate behavior