

## Introduction

Speech therapy helps people with communication, voice, hearing and swallowing disorders. Speech therapists in our school provides professional services and support to students, parents and staffs.

## Objectives

- ✧ Help develop the communication abilities of students in order to cope with learning and daily needs.
  - ✓ Increase the communication intent of students.
  - ✓ Enhance language and social skills.
  - ✓ Increase the spontaneity and confidence in communication.
- ✧ Improve the efficiency of parents and staffs in communicating with students.



## Therapy flow

1. Assess the abilities of students in areas including language, articulation, social, oral-motor, voice and swallowing.
2. Decide treatment objectives, format and content according to the assessment results.
3. Evaluate students' treatment progress and performance regularly.

## Types of Speech and Language Disorders

Common types of speech and language disorders of our students include:

### **Language Disorders**

- Receptive language deficiencies: e.g. able to comprehending present, frequent and in situation events only, have difficulty in comprehending abstract concepts or complicated events.
- Expressive language deficiencies: e.g. have limited vocabularies, use short phrases or incomplete sentences only, misuse grammatical structures, limited content in communication and have difficulty in maintaining topic.

### **Articulation Disorders**

Speech errors or difficulty in controlling oral-motor musculatures which leads to reduced speech intelligibility, and sometimes drooling. For example:

- ✗ Stopping
- ✗ Deaspiration
- ✗ Final consonant deletion
- ✗ Backing

### **Fluency Disorder**

Difficulty in controlling speech flow or fluency, for example:

- Repetition and/or prolongation
- Stop or pause during speech
- Secondary behaviour, e.g. frequent eye blinking, nodding.

### **Voice Disorder**

- Hoarseness or roughness, inappropriate breathing-voicing coordination
- Inappropriate speech tone or difficulty in controlling loudness of speech
- Phonation break or voice break
- Dysphonia

### **Swallowing Disorder**

During swallowing, food goes into the trachea, which may cause choking or even suffocation.

- Acute symptoms: frequent choking during eating, difficulty in swallowing, forceful or multiple swallow.
- Chronic symptoms: continuous slight fever, weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration, pneumonia.

## Areas of Therapy

### **Language Training**

By creating favourable language learning environment and using appropriate language facilitating skills, students' language abilities can be enhanced, including vocabulary use, sentence structure, asking questions, narratives and passage comprehensions.



### **Articulation Training**

Through different cueing strategies, demonstrations, feedback and reinforcement, the students acquire the correct articulation.



## Oral-motor Training



By means of suitable oral-motor training tools and therapy techniques, students improve in lips, tongue, and jaw control,

which reduces drooling, improves articulation and feeding.

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication Training

Therapists design suitable mode of communication for non-verbal students, such as communication book, tablets, computers and more. Students can use these communication skills or devices in daily life to express needs, respond and ask questions.



## Social Skills Training

During group training or classroom activities, students improve their social communication skills through role-play, demonstration, and practical activities.



## Classroom Collaboration

Therapists collaborate with teachers and other therapists in daily contexts and activities, in order to promote different language and social skills of students.

## Parent Contact

### Home Practices

Therapists prepare home training materials for students in need. Parents can practice with their children at home to master the learnt skills.

### Home Visit

Therapists understand the behaviour and mode of communication of students at home through home visit, and provide suitable recommendations and support to parents.

### Individual Contact

Therapists contact parents by telephone or arrange meeting with parents when needed to discuss the training goals, progress, and home training skills.

## Training

- ❖ Therapists invite parents of new students to participate in individual therapy. Parents can understand the ability and behaviour of their children and learn related training skills.
- ❖ Therapists organize talks/workshops for parents to increase their understanding of speech therapy, and to enhance the mutual communication of parents.

## Enquiries

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# Speech Therapy Department

