



FACT SHEET: SPEECH THERAPY FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Can secondary students receive speech and language support?

Absolutely! Don't hesitate to refer a student for speech/language intervention just because of his/her age. The Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) will determine who is appropriate for speech services and what level of service may be appropriate.

What is a Multi-Tiered System of Support and how can it be used for secondary students?

The MTSS process allows SLPs and other service providers to support students using the least restrictive level of intervention necessary. It is possible for the SLP to provide support to students without enrolling him/her in formal therapy. Many secondary students can improve classroom performance with strategies provided via collaboration between the SLP and teacher. Alternatively, it may be appropriate for the teacher, paraeducator, or instructional assistant to run a short-term speech-language intervention group under the guidance of the SLP. Some students; however, may require intensive and individualized speech and language support.

What skills might be addressed by the SLP for secondary students?

Speech therapy for secondary students can cover a wide variety of needs. In general, therapy for older students should take into consideration the daily academic demands and address school-based speech and language requirements. Many times, secondary students with speech or language disorders fall behind in their classes as the difficulty level of their curriculum increases. The SLP is there to provide strategies and support for students to overcome the roadblocks hindering them from accessing their full education.

What can the secondary ed classroom teacher do to help students with speech or language impairments?

The biggest way a classroom teacher can help students with speech-language impairments is to maintain open communication and collaboration with the Speech-Language Pathologist. The SLP is knowledgeable about each specific student and his/her needs and may have some great ideas for classroom strategies. If you have a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), make sure to review the document and ask questions about anything contained within. Familiarize yourself with any adaptations or accommodations the student requires as part of the IEP. Be an active participant in the student's IEP meeting, ensuring that you understand his/her needs.