

Why is Working with a Speech Language Pathologist Important?

The speech language pathologists in the Hearing Program at Nationwide Children's work with each individual child to help the family choose the most appropriate mode of communication for their child and to help that child develop those communication skills. They may do this in the following ways:

- Teaching parents and caregivers ways to help children learn to listen and talk
- Doing listening checks to see if a child's hearing devices are working
- Helping children learn to listen with their hearing device(s)
- Helping children make their speech sounds correctly
- Helping children learn to understand and use language
- Helping children learn the skills needed for reading

The audiologists and speech pathologists in the Hearing Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital work with each other to track a child's progress and make changes to their hearing device or therapy to best serve the child and their family.

Your physician will be making a referral to see one of our speech specialists from the Hearing Program to continue this conversation and to obtain a baseline of your child's speech, language, and auditory skill development. The speech team provides education and assessment starting at just 3 months of age!

To contact the speech department for further information please call 614-722-2200.



When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

How Will My Child Communicate?

	Auditory-Oral/Auditory-Verbal	American Sign Language	Total Communication	Cued Speech*
Definition	Focuses on using spoken language and developing spoken language skills through the use of hearing devices and listening.	Because ASL is visual, it can be used and understood by people with all degrees of hearing loss, including those with severe to profound hearing loss, with or without a hearing device. How a child hears does not change how they learn ASL.	An auditory and visual type of communication that uses spoken language and an English based sign language and/or other visual communication systems at the same time.	An auditory and visual type of communication that uses hand signals for different sounds. Different hand shapes in different positions near the mouth help the child understand what sound is being said.
Goals	To develop spoken language by using listening and natural gestures.	To give a child with hearing loss access to early language learning and help the brain develop with or without the use of a hearing device.	To support listening skills and spoken language while also giving the child a way to communicate with family, friends and teachers.	To support listening skills and spoken language and early reading skills, such as knowing which sound goes with which letter.
Hearing	Consistent, early and correct use of hearing devices are needed to develop this type of communication skill. Audiologic monitoring and management is important.	How a child hears does not change how they learn ASL. With the use of a hearing device, a child can learn to listen and talk in addition to using ASL.	Ongoing use of hearing devices is strongly encouraged to help with the development of the child's listening and spoken language skills.	Early and regular use of hearing devices is important if the main goal is for the child to use listening and spoken language to communicate.
Family Commitment	Families will need to work with their child's teachers and therapists to learn how to support listening and spoken language development at home.	Families will also need to learn ASL and use it all the time in the home. Children learn most of their language skills by communicating with people in their family, so it is important that everyone in the family uses the same mode of communication!	Families will need to learn and always use a visual communication system. These families will also need to work with their child's teachers and therapists to learn how to support listening and spoken language development at home.	Families will need to learn the hand signals or "cues" that make up the cued speech system and will need to always use them when communicating with their child.

* Cued Speech is not currently a communication mode offered by Nationwide Children's Hospital Hearing Team, but it is a widely used communication mode for children with hearing loss.