


SPEECH PATHOLOGY REFERRALS


When it comes to communication, there are three important aspects that Speech Pathologists work with: speech, language, and voice. Please use the below guide to assist you with your referrals.



Speech

Refers to the sounds we make when we talk.

 **Why it's important:** Speech allows us to verbally communicate with others. It's how we convey our thoughts, feelings, and ideas.


 **Signs for Referral:** If someone has difficulty pronouncing certain sounds, stutters frequently*, or has a persistent hoarse or strained voice

*Please note that we are currently unable to assist with stuttering referrals.

Language


Refers to the system we use to communicate.


 **Why it's important:** Language allows us to convey complex ideas and understand others. It enables us to have conversations, write, read, and express ourselves in various ways.

 **Signs for Referral:** Difficulty understanding or using vocabulary, struggling to form sentences, or difficulty following directions.

Voice

Refers to the sound produced by the vibration of the vocal cords.

 **Why it's important:** Voice allows us to communicate verbally and convey emotions and personality. We recognise someone by their voice alone and how we add emphasis or emotion to our words.

 **Signs for Referral:** Persistent hoarseness, voice breaks, difficulty projecting or maintaining volume, or pain.

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