

Speech Pathology

Providing support across the lifespan

What is Speech Pathology?

The Speech Pathology team at Autism SA can provide assessment and management for children and adults who experience swallowing and/or communication difficulties.

These may be related to:

- Speech (production of sounds),
- Language (the understanding and use of spoken and written communication),
- Augmentative Alternative Communication (the use of tools and strategies that provides a means of independent communication),
- Social communication and interaction (including play skills, conversational skills, understanding social situations),
- Literacy (the development of reading and spelling),
- Mealtime skills (including biting, chewing and swallowing), and
- Fluency (working with individuals who stutter).

Our Speech Pathologists

Our team of Speech Pathologists are all members of Speech Pathology Australia and are enrolled in the Professional Self Regulation Program. Our team is well resourced to offer a broad range of individualised services and supports that include:

- Assessment of speech, language and literacy,
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) assessment,
- 1:1 therapy,
- Group therapy including AAC, mealtime and social communication skills,
- Multi-disciplinary mealtime assessments, including the implementation of Oral Eating and Drinking Care Plans and Mealtime Support Plans for adults,
- Parent education/training, and
- Non-face-to-face services including individualised resources and clinical information.

The Speech Pathology team also works closely with our team of Allied Health Professionals that include Occupational Therapists, Social Workers and Psychologists. When necessary, services may be provided as multi-disciplinary assessments and therapy.

Our team at Autism SA also work with our Psychologists to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder.





When should I consider making a referral to a Speech Pathologist?

A referral should be considered when:

- The individual is frustrated trying to communicate,
- The individual is having difficulty understanding what is said to him/her, or following instructions,
- The individual's speech is hesitant or dysfluent,
- The individual is non-verbal and does not have functional communication,
- The individual is experiencing difficulty reading,
- The individual is having difficulty using their language to have social interactions and understanding social 'rules',
- The individual has a limited diet and has difficulty chewing and swallowing food and fluids,
- Mealtimes are challenging, or
- Family members are concerned about their child's speech and language and/or mealtimes and swallowing.

Who can make a referral?

The following people and professionals are able to make a direct referral to see one of Autism SA's Speech Pathologists:

- Parents/carers,
- General Practitioners,
- Child Health Nurses,
- Other health professionals,
- Childcare workers, kindergarten and school teachers, and
- Community health organisations.

Where can I attend a Speech Therapy session?

You can access our Speech Therapy services as face to face sessions in variety of locations including:

- Autism SA's Netley or Elizabeth clinics,
- Your childcare centre or kindergarten,
- At school, or
- In your home.

We are also able to offer our sessions via Telehealth.

Funding options

Autism SA is accredited and registered as a provider through the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

Services can also be provided through a fee for service arrangement.

For further information about speech pathology and other services available at Autism SA please visit www.autismsa.org.au or phone My Pathways on 1300 288 476

For enquiries please contact mypathways@autismsa.org.au or phone 1300 AUTISM (1300 288 476).

1/262 Marion Road, Netley
PO Box 304 Marlestone DC
South Australia 5033
autismsa.org.au

