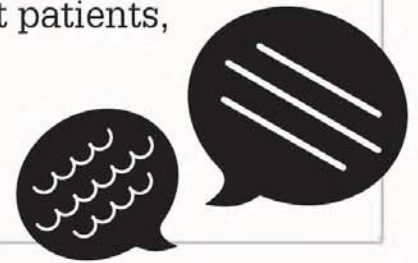




# SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

## JOB DESCRIPTION

A speech pathologist assesses, diagnoses, and supports people with speech and communication problems. They also help people who are experiencing difficulties in eating, drinking, and swallowing. They may treat patients, both children and adults, with neurological disorders or developmental delays.



### SALARY

Newly qualified pathologist ★★★★★  
Team leader ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Job opportunities available worldwide • Most speech pathologists work for public sector health organizations • Increasing number of freelance pathologists

## CAREER PATHS

A newly qualified speech pathologist or therapist usually joins an expert care team, which includes teachers, nurses, doctors, and psychologists. Once licensed, you can gain clinical experience on a broad level or specialize in one area of therapy before looking to progress into a managerial role.

**ASSISTANT** After graduating college, you can gain valuable experience assisting a qualified speech pathologist while you study for your master's degree.



**GRADUATE** You must have a master's degree in speech pathology in order to enter the profession. Requirements to become a speech pathologist can vary by state.



### CHILD SPEECH

**PATHOLOGIST** Works alongside hearing specialists (audiologists) and ear, nose, and throat doctors to assess and treat children whose speech and language have not fully developed for either physical or psychological reasons.



**SPEECH PATHOLOGIST** In this job, you assess a client's needs to deliver a course of treatment in consultation with other health professionals and the client's family or teachers.

## SKILLS GUIDE



The ability to listen carefully and communicate clearly with both children and adults.



Good team-working skills to cooperate with teachers, social workers, and health professionals.



The ability to be sensitive and compassionate toward vulnerable and anxious patients.



Attention to detail for interpreting measurements to make a correct diagnosis.



Persistence, a good sense of humor, and the ability to motivate patients.



### ADULT SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Works with adults suffering from speech and communication problems that may have resulted from injury, stroke, cancer, or age-related disorders.



**TEAM LEADER** Takes charge of the work and staffing of a unit, or joins a hospital's management team. This job requires work experience because it is a leadership role.



### CLINICAL RESEARCHER

Conducts clinical trials on patients with the goal of improving medical procedures and clinical practices.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **PSYCHOLOGIST** *see p. 254–255*
- ▶ **PHYSICAL THERAPIST** *see pp. 288–289*
- ▶ **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST** *see pp. 292–293*
- ▶ **AUDIOLOGIST** Works with adults and children who experience disruptions to their hearing or loss of hearing, and balance problems.
- ▶ **ELOCUTION TUTOR** Provides lessons to help students improve aspects of their speech, such as pronunciation, diction, and voice projection.
- ▶ **NUTRITIONIST** Offers advice and information about healthy diets and lifestyles. Nutritionists can also conduct research and make recommendations to food companies and health care authorities.

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Medicine • Biology • Psychology • Science • Health and social service • Social sciences • English • Languages • Linguistics



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** A master's degree and professional license are required to be able to practice as a speech pathologist.



**LIFESTYLE** Working hours are usually regular. Part-time work and freelance positions are also available, offering more flexibility.



**LOCATION** Pathologists work in schools, hospitals, community health centers, or assessment units. They may travel to work at different locations.



**THE REALITIES** Although patient expectations can be high and the work itself can be relentless and tiring, it is also extremely rewarding.