

## Speech-Language Services and Vocational Rehabilitation/Supports

Communication deficits can impact job performance and career goals. The speech-language pathologist can be a valuable member of the vocational rehabilitation team, supporting successful outcomes for individuals with disabilities by:

1. Assessing speech-language disabilities
2. Determining the impact of the disability on vocational training and job performance
3. Providing intervention to improve communication skills and/or offering strategies to support expressive and receptive communication in the workplace

Types of Speech-Language Disabilities	Workplace skills effected
<b>Speech (speech sounds):</b> Cluttering/Stuttering Dysarthric speech Articulation (speech sounds) Foreign accent Non-verbal communication options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased speech intelligibility for communicating with co-workers and customers</li> <li>• Using a telephone</li> <li>• Interviewing</li> </ul>
<b>Receptive Language:</b> Auditory/reading comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding interview questions, directions or information presented orally or in text</li> <li>• Understanding job-related vocabulary</li> <li>• Reading and interpreting job announcements</li> <li>• Filling out applications &amp; other forms</li> <li>• Taking notes &amp; phone messages</li> <li>• Understanding safety signs</li> </ul>
<b>Expressive Language</b> Vocabulary Sentence construction Sequencing ideas/information Word retrieval Writing skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answering interview questions</li> <li>• Relaying information reliably</li> <li>• Explaining/expressing job-related information clearly</li> <li>• Grammar and sentence length</li> <li>• Communicating with co-workers</li> <li>• Writing resumes, letters of introduction, work documents</li> <li>• Using new vocabulary</li> <li>• Filling out applications &amp; other forms</li> </ul>
<b>Pragmatic Language</b> Social skills Conversational management skills Eye contact Topic selection/maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpersonal skills and workplace behavior</li> <li>• Appropriate relationships at work</li> <li>• Accurate interpretation of other's body language and expression</li> <li>• Accurate interpretation of the intent of other's messages</li> </ul>
<b>Cognitive/Executive Functioning</b> Problem solving Reasoning Organization Memory deficits Attention and concentration Processing speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solving work-related problems</li> <li>• Planning/organization</li> <li>• Prioritizing tasks</li> <li>• Understanding/following schedules and rules</li> <li>• Strategies to support memory</li> <li>• Following instructions</li> <li>• Sequencing steps in tasks and daily routines</li> <li>• Coping with distractions</li> </ul>