

Referrals, Intervention, and Plans for Speech and Language Students

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As you meet the new children in your class, you may find that a few students have articulation, voice, language, or fluency problems. If this is the case, here are some steps you can take to help your students.

1. Check the student's file. Look for any prior speech therapy, language difficulties, or hearing problems. The student may already be in speech therapy.
2. Observe the student in the classroom. This will help provide you with intervention strategies. Speak to the student's parents and let them know that you see a problem at this point.
3. For a week or so, try intervention strategies in the classroom and document the results.
4. If the child's speech does not improve with strategies in the classroom, speak to the parent and let them know you are suggesting a speech and language evaluation.
5. Fill out a referral form for speech and language evaluation.

Teachers in the second grade should pay special attention to the articulation of their students! Many students identified in the first grade did not receive speech and language therapy to rule out developmental delays or speech errors due to the loss of teeth. Any students in the Second Grade who misarticulate sounds "r", "s", "l", "th", or "sh" should receive a referral to the speech therapist.

As an additional reminder, please remember the importance of scheduling speech therapy for students. Scheduling can be a very tricky task given classroom priorities and the number of students in therapy. Please hang your speech schedule in a noticeable space, and remind students to come for therapy. Also, please remind students to take home assignments (ex., worksheets) given by the speech pathologist.

SLPs should always be aware of the child's needs in the classroom. Teachers should inform the SLP if a child who is receiving therapy is having particular difficulties (ex., difficulty following directions) in class. Attending therapy should help students succeed in classroom work.

When we work as a team, we benefit our students and grow as professionals!

Have a wonderful school year!

