WHAT DIAGNOSES DOES A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST TREAT?

**SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS**
Articulation and phonology. May be developmental but may also be due to:
♦ Reduced strength in the articulators (tongue, lips, jaw, palate, teeth)
♦ Reduced coordination
♦ Structural anomalies (short frenulum, cleft lip/palate)

**SLPs can provide behavioral therapy to elicit age appropriate speech production.**

**OROFACIAL MYOFUNCTIONAL DISORDERS**
Aberrant and exaggerated anterior lingual movement during speech or swallowing (tongue thrust). This affects sounds and swallow ability.

**SLPs can provide behavioral therapies which may reduce tongue thrust and its impact on dentition.**

**RESONANCE DISORDERS**
A disruption in the way air flows through the oral and nasal cavity:
♦ Hypernasality: too much air (e.g. cleft palate)
♦ Hyponasality: obstructed airflow secondary to nasal blockage (e.g. hypertrophic adenoids)

**Nasal obstruction can result in obligatory mouth breathing and open mouth posture.**

**LANGUAGE DISORDERS**
Difficulty using and understanding spoken, written, and other symbol systems. The disorder may involve difficulty with:
♦ Form: how sounds, parts of words (e.g. –ing), word phrases (e.g. a noun phrase) and sentence types (interrogative) form expressive/receptive language (e.g. syntax, morphology, and phonology)
♦ Content: semantics or meaning of expressive/receptive language
♦ Use: function or pragmatics of expressive/receptive language. Reasons for talking (e.g. to request, to deny), discourse skills (e.g. topic maintenance, turn-taking), and the ability to be flexible

**Facilitation of age-appropriate language skills can help with interactions and care of the pediatric population.**

**BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL COMMUNICATION**
Includes the following:
♦ Difficulties with turn-taking and attention-span
♦ Need for behavioral reinforcement for age-appropriate behaviors related to speech, language and swallow function
♦ Facilitation of age appropriate social skills

**SLPs can help your patients’ in-seat behavior.**

**SENSORY INTEGRATION DYSFUNCTION DISORDERS**
Increased or decreased sensitivity to stimuli.

**SLPs can help desensitize children who have difficulty being touched in the oral cavity.**

**DYSPHAGIA OR FEEDING & SWALLOWING DISORDERS**
Difficulty with the oral, pharyngeal or esophageal stages of swallowing.

**Dental anomalies may cause oral stage dysphagia.**

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