Communication is essential for learning, literacy and numeracy development, interacting with others, participation in all class and school activities, and positive self esteem.

**Speech–language pathologists in schools:**
- Work as members of the education team (which can include the student, parents/caregivers, teachers, teacher aides and other specialist support personnel) to determine educational needs of students with special needs in communication and/or eating and drinking difficulties.
- Assist in developing and delivering programs that enhance or support students’ communication skills necessary for access and participation in the curriculum.
- Assist the education team to adjust communication demands of the curriculum to ensure student participation and achievement of educational goals.
- Provide professional development activities for teachers, teacher aides and other support staff.
- Consult with and provide resources to school staff, parents and the school community.
- Liaise with other agencies.

To assist students in achieving their educational outcomes, speech–language pathologists use specialised knowledge of:
- Speech
- Language
- Social interaction skills
- Communication strategies
- Voice
- Fluency
- Eating, drinking and swallowing.

**Services**
Speech–language pathologists contribute to students’ educational programs by:
- Planning with teachers to provide classroom activities to enhance spoken language competencies.
- Advising on the spoken language prerequisites for literacy and numeracy development and strategies to assist students to develop these.
- Advising parents about speech and language development and how they can assist their children to develop spoken language competence.
- Assessing students’ communication development and skills.
- Identifying students with speech–language impairment according to departmental criteria.
- Providing intervention programs to support students with special needs in communication.
- Determining the communication requirements of classroom activities, resources and assessments and advising on modifications to support specific student needs.
- Working collaboratively with the education team to support students’ positive behaviour.
- Advising on the use of technology to support communication.
- Providing support for students who require augmentative and alternative communication ( AAC) systems and strategies.
- Providing support and strategies for students with oromotor difficulties including students with eating and drinking difficulties and swallowing disabilities.

**Further Information**
All Education Queensland speech–language therapy services are required to align with the guidelines provided in the service documents *Speech–Language Therapy Services in State Schools* and *Priorities in Speech–Language Therapy Services in State Schools* which can be found on the Speech–Language Pathologists Professional Learning Community at www.learningplace.com.au/sc/inclusiveeducation/slp

For information about local speech–language therapy services contact:
- School Principal
- Head of Special Education Services
- Speech–Language Pathologist-in-Charge in District or Regional Offices.