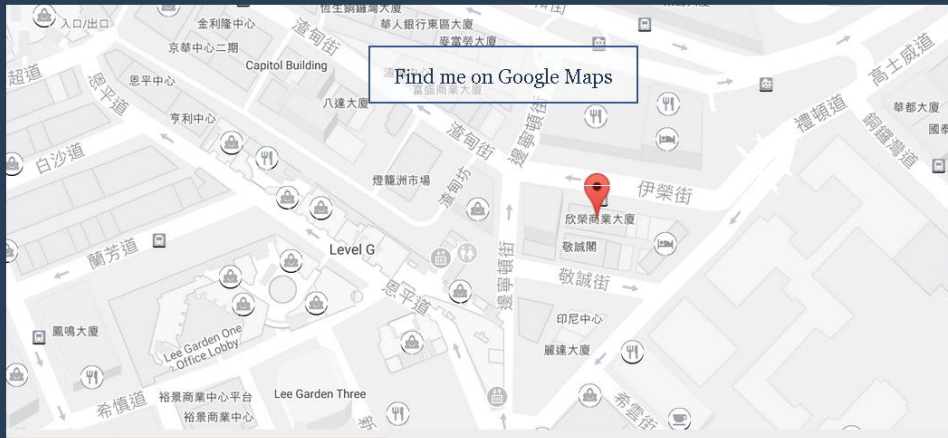

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How Teachers Can Help a Child Struggling with Language



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言語病理學家

What Do Speech Pathologists Do?

We work with clients to improve their language, their literacy, their fluency, and their social communication skills.

We use scientific assessment instruments and evidence-based treatment techniques to help our clients achieve their communication goals.

How Can I Recognize a Student Who Needs Intervention?

Reading Trouble

- Any problem with speed, fluency, or comprehension
- Dyslexia is a specific type of reading disorder, not a catchall term

Vocabulary

- Small # of words
- Trouble with abstraction and multiple meanings

Narrative Structure

- Stories have very simple structures
- Cannot maintain a topic over time
- Too much word repetition

Syntax

- Struggling with complex, info-heavy sentences
- Over-use of simple forms
- Can't manipulate structures

Vocabulary (Cont'd)

- Long time to express desired message (circumlocution)
- Can't follow complex directions
- Trouble with figurative language

Social Skills

- Doesn't grasp social cues, jokes, or abstractions
- Struggles with participation and group functioning

How can SLPs and Teachers Support Each Other to Help Students?

SLPs will develop an intervention plan, using either 1-on-1 or group sessions to help meet a child's therapy goals. Teachers are invaluable partners in a child's language development. They can support growth by

...Supporting Phonological Skills

- Segmenting and combining sounds
- Using alphabet sounds to decode print

...Helpful Reminders

- Help child complete instructions
- Diaries and visual aids will also work

...Compromise

- Find a workable starting point
- Gradual, incremental progress works best

...Slow Speaking

- Use clear, emphatic speech
- No harm in repeating yourself
- Eye-contact is essential

...Clear Expectations

- Set-up what needs to be done, how long it will take, and what comes after
- Don't forget to explain why

...Praise!

- Don't neglect the power of positivity!
- Make sure praise is specific

Questions?

I'm happy help. If you have a student struggling with language, reach out. My contact information's on the back. Thanks for reading.

