



I Screen, You Screen, We All Screen For... What?

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When a teacher or parent has concerns about a student's speech or language abilities, he/she can refer the student to a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) who will first screen the child. A speech and/or language screening is a quick check to see if a student's skills might be delayed and require further in-depth evaluation. Screenings performed by an SLP often include:

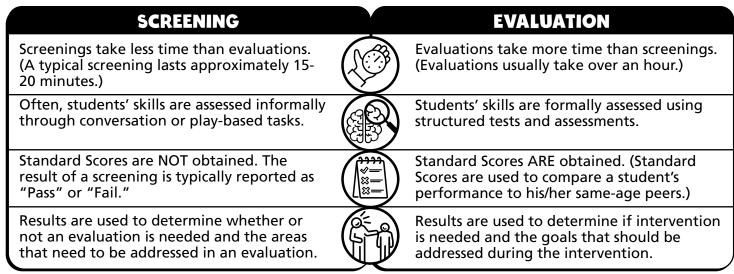


- **Speech** (articulation and phonology) A speech screening might reveal if a student has difficulty producing specific sounds (articulation) or uses inappropriate sound patterns (phonology).
- Language (receptive and expressive) A language screening can uncover delays in what a student is able to hear and understand (receptive language) and how well a student is able to communicate his/her wants and needs (expressive language).
- **Voice** A voice screening allows an SLP to judge whether or not the student's vocal quality (pitch, hoarseness, loudness, etc.) is age and gender appropriate.
- **Fluency** A fluency screening might show that a student has disruptions in speech (disfluencies/stuttering) that are not typical of his/her same-age peers.
- **Hearing** a hearing screening can determine if a student has a hearing loss which can impact his/her speech and/or language abilities.









After the Screening

After the screening is complete, the SLP makes recommendations. If a student "fails" a screening, the SLP will recommend that the student receive a full evaluation. The results of the screening help an SLP determine which areas of speech/language to formally assess. Even if a student "passes" the speech/language screening, the SLP may make additional referrals to other disciplines (such as an occupational therapist, reading specialist, etc.). Additionally, if a student "passes" a screening, the SLP may recommend no further action, or may request a follow-up screening in a few months.



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413 – Understanding Evaluation Terminology
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