

Speech & language pathologist and Developmental Coordination Disorder

What is a speech and language pathologist?

A speech and language pathologist (SLP) is a healthcare professional focused on the assessment, diagnosis and management of communication and swallowing disorders.

What role might a speech and language pathologist play in DCD diagnosis?

An SLP is not directly involved in the diagnosis of DCD, but they are involved in the diagnosis of a common co-occurring feature of DCD, which is Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

What role can a speech and language pathologist play in intervention for DCD?

As above, an SLP is not directly involved in the treatment of DCD, but they will deliver therapy for childhood apraxia of speech.

How do you find a speech and language pathologist?

The Speech Pathology Australia website <https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/> has a find a speech pathologist page where you can search by expertise and location.

What to ask when looking for a speech and language pathologist.

When contacting a speech pathologist for the first time for assessment or intervention for childhood apraxia of speech, do mention that your child has DCD as well. Knowing that the child has an existing, more generalised movement disorder, will help them to consider the best sorts of intervention approaches for your child.