

Speech Language Pathology Services

Raceview State School



What is a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)?

A SLP works with teachers and students to improve the following areas:

- **Oral language** skills including: speaking: vocabulary, narrative, grammar, syntax, inferencing, social skills, as well as listening: understanding instructions, concepts etc.
- **Speech sound production**
- **Fluency** (e.g. stuttering)
- **Literacy** skills including phonics, phonological awareness, reading and spelling

Emily Podlich has been the full-time SLP at Raceview since 2015.

What is the role of the SLP at Raceview SS?

Emily works with many students at Raceview to complete speech, language and literacy assessments and observations. If required, she may then provide therapy, or an individualised Teacher Aide program and training to implement this with the child. Students may be supported individually or in a small group program. Emily may also work with the student's teacher to provide strategies and suggestions for classroom adjustments to best support the child. Once students have participated in support programs for some time, their skills will be reviewed. If they have made significant progress they may no longer need to attend the program.

Emily also works with the staff at Raceview to provide Professional Development in the form of; training workshops, collaborating to plan curriculum activities and resources, coaching and consultation. The SLP may also assist in the identification of students with communication needs.

Who is supported?

Students are referred to SLP services by their classroom teacher. This may be due to concerns in any of the communication areas listed above. Students are prioritised based on the impact that their communication needs may have on their learning. If you have any concerns about your child's development, please see the classroom teacher.

What can you do at home?

➤ Conversation strategies to support language development

When your child speaks, share the moment with them and add information that will help them to learn. Conversations are great opportunities to expose children to more complex language while acknowledging what they say in a positive way. Conversation time might be when you are cooking, driving or even during bath time!

Expand what your child says: Child: "The boy is looking." Parent: "Yes, he is looking at that tiny bug!"

Allow your child to lead the conversation so they have a chance to express their feelings, needs and interests.

Prompt by using a sentence starter or giving choices if needed. E.g. "She did that because..." "Do you think it's A or B?"

➤ Shared book reading

Shared book reading is a powerful activity to support your child's language development. When reading to your child, take time to comment on the pictures, give your own explanations about the story, and make connections between the story and your own lives. You should also ask your child questions at different levels of complexity, or *Blank's Levels of Questions*. These question types range from simple questions to more difficult, abstract questions. It is important for your child to develop the ability to understand and answer all levels of questions to be successful throughout their schooling.

Level 1: What is that? What can you see?

Level 2: What is happening in this picture? How are these different? Which one can fly?

Level 3: What will happen next? How do you think he feels? How are these the same?

Level 4: What will happen if...? How can you tell that he is sad?



➤ Play Games!

I-spy - Playing I-spy allows children to exercise their language skills by describing a particular object based on its features.

Taboo - This is a fun game for older students and adults. Taboo involves explaining a particular word to your partner without using certain 'taboo words'. This game stimulates your vocabulary and oral language skills.

Other language games include *scattergories*, *scrabble*, *I went shopping* and many more! 😊

