

Target Keyword: What to Expect in a Speech Language Pathology Interview
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Although the job outlook for speech language pathologists is very promising, with a projected growth of 23% between 2010 and 2020, there's still some tough competition out there. In order to be sure you land that job, it's essential that you know what to expect in a speech language pathology interview.

What are common interview questions?

While each interview will vary, there are some common interview questions that you might expect to be presented with during your interview. You may be asked:

- To share an experience when you observed that an adjustment in treatment needed to be made.
- About monitoring and/ or recording your performance or that of others.
- To share information about previous goals and whether or not you achieved them.
- About organizational skills, planning abilities, and how you prioritize.
- To rate your own skills, abilities, or past performances.
- How you adapt to change.
- About your ability to deal with difficult people or situations. Examples are frequently requested.
- To give an example about when your ethics were put to the test.
- To give examples of creative or alternative thinking.

More specific types of questions may be asked as well, and when determining what to expect in a speech language pathology interview, you should remember that a lot depends on the type of position you are seeking.

Speech language pathologists work in a variety of environments including:

- Elementary and secondary schools
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Home Health
- Private Clinics and Offices

Although speech language pathologists typically evaluate, diagnose, and treat various speech problems, they are often needed to treat patients with swallowing disorders as well. Patients are often individuals who have difficulty with speech or swallowing due to illness, birth defects, injuries, strokes, or other disorders or conditions. Due to the wide spectrum of patients and conditions, the successful speech language pathologist will need to demonstrate their ability to perform the

duties that best suit the position for which he or she is applying. Some of the common abilities that you may be asked about during your speech language pathology interview, so that your potential employer can determine your effectiveness, include such things as:

- Your ability to effectively and sensitively communicate with patients
- Your ability to evaluate each individual's abilities and needs
- Your ability to determine effective treatment options
- Your ability to create a personalized treatment plan
- Your ability to carry out an effective plan for treatment to ensure the maximum chances of success
- Your teaching abilities
- Your knowledge and skills that pertain to alternative methods of communication. These might include the ability to understand and teach sign language or reading and writing
- Your ability to provide information and support to families in order for them to understand various methods of coping with the disorder

When evaluating what to expect in a speech language pathology interview, you might also wish to consider the area of expertise that may be addressed. While some speech language pathologists specialize in treating patients in specific age groups, others concentrate their efforts on treating patients who suffer from certain conditions or types of conditions. You may also be asked about such things as:

- Your ability to effectively work with the specified age group
- Any specialty areas that you have previous experience in or expert knowledge of
- Your ability to work with groups, individuals, or both

Speech language pathologists are typically required to have obtained a minimum of a master's degree. Additionally, certain certifications and licenses are typically required as well. You can normally be expected to answer questions about your education, certifications, and any licenses you hold during your interview. It might be a good idea to bring copies of your educational transcripts and any certifications or licenses that are relevant to your career.

In addition to your skills, abilities, and educational achievements, other factors are often evaluated during a speech language pathologist interview as well. Keep in mind that you will not only be working with patients, but you will likely be interacting with nurses, physicians, teachers, and other professionals as well. Your ability to "fit in" to your potential work environment will typically be evaluated during your interview. Factors that are frequently considered include:

- Personality: Personality can make or break a new job opportunity. By demonstrating compassion and a positive attitude, your chances for success will increase greatly.
- Communication Skills: It is extremely important that you demonstrate your communication abilities to the fullest. Not only should you prove that you can effectively communicate with patients, but you should show that you can communicate with the other professionals on your team as well.
- Appearance: Although a professional appearance is obviously not the most important aspect of your interview, it is definitely something you should consider to be important. When you are anticipating what to expect in a speech language pathology interview, every aspect of professionalism should be practiced.

It is important to remember that these are simply guidelines of what to expect in a speech language pathology interview.