



### **Speech and Language Services**

Speech and language services are available at Tanque Verde Pediatrics by our licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Natalie Clausen. Please see our website for her [bio and credentials](#). Patients who make use of this service will meet with Natalie at our office for evaluation of your child's communication needs. Tele-therapy appointments are available when appropriate.

Services are available for difficulty in the following areas:

- Early Language Development
- Articulation
- Phonology
- Expressive/Receptive Language
- Speech Fluency
- Voice
- Social Language

**Please note that this is a self-pay module with billing receipt provided so that the patient may apply for reimbursement with their insurance carrier if allowable.**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Time</b>
Speech-Language Screening/Consultation	\$50	30 minutes
Comprehensive Speech-Language Evaluation	\$250	90 minutes
Articulation-Only Speech Evaluation	\$150	60 minutes
Individual Speech-Language Therapy (30 mins)	\$50	30 minutes
Individual Speech-Language Therapy (45 mins) or Language Boost Parent-Coaching	\$75	45 minutes

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, you may fill out [this form](#) on our website to request a consultation.

# What to Expect of Speech Therapy

## **Speech-Language Screening/Consultation**

This is a 30-minute appointment with the purpose of identifying your child's communication needs and the recommended next steps to take.

You and your child will meet with the SLP to discuss your concerns. The SLP will engage your child in a brief activity and/or play while observing communication behaviors and speech/language skills. You may be asked to complete a parent questionnaire to provide additional information about your child's communication.

Impressions of your child's skills and areas that may need further evaluation will be discussed, and an action plan will be made.

Common recommendations following a screening/consultation

- have your child's hearing tested
- schedule a comprehensive speech-language evaluation followed by speech therapy
- schedule 1 or more parent-coaching sessions
- provide extra language support at home with a follow up visit to check on progress

Resources often provided to parents following a consultation

- information on typical communication development and milestones
- expressive vocabulary tracker for home monitoring
- articles providing actionable advice and tips for parents
- online resources that are reliable and backed by current research
- techniques to work on speech difficulties at home with your child
- info about available public programs, such as AzEIP (Arizona Early Intervention Program) and ChildFind
- recommendations for other local providers
- information on speech-related topics (for example, pacifiers/sippy cup use, bilingualism, baby sign language, screentime, early literacy for preschoolers, toys good for language development, etc.)

## **Comprehensive Speech-Language Evaluation**

This is a longer appointment used to identify specific areas of communication strengths and needs. An evaluation is needed before starting therapy so that appropriate therapy goals can be made.

Specific tasks will be selected based on the particular areas of concern for your child. The SLP and/or you, the parent, may play, talk, name pictures, share a book, and more. Areas that are evaluated include expressive and receptive language, phonological development, articulation, fluency, voice, oral motor structure and function, social language skills, and symbolic play development.

### **Articulation-Only Speech Evaluation**

This is an option for children and adolescents who need help with one or two speech sounds and who have no difficulties in other areas, such as learning, putting thoughts into words, and understanding.

### **Individual Speech-Language Therapy**

Therapy begins after a full evaluation has been completed and goals have been identified. Therapy is typically once a week at a set time, for 30 or 45 minutes, depending on your child's needs. Therapy session format varies depending on multiple factors. You can ask for more details specific to your child.

### **Language Boost Parent-Coaching**

Language Boost Parent-Coaching sessions are 45-minutes long. This individual therapy format is for parents of toddlers who are not learning to talk as expected for their age. Parent and child both participate in these sessions.

A commonly used guideline for "late-talker" is a child who

- uses fewer than 10 words at 18 months, or
- fewer than 50 words and no word combinations at 24 months, and
- who has no other areas of delay

Parents are taught strategies to use when interacting with their toddler in order to encourage communication development. See the Language Boost parent coaching page for more details.

\*Language Boost sessions require a consultation appointment with the SLP first to ensure that this option will best meet your child's needs. Children who are not meeting milestones in additional areas of development will need a comprehensive evaluation.

### **Articulation Clinic**

Articulation Clinic is for older kids (~8 & up) who continue to have trouble saying 1 or 2 speech sounds correctly. Common sound errors that can persist are R, S, L, and TH. Priority and suitability of these appointments is determined by the SLP.

This individual therapy is a weekly 30-minute session held during after-school hours during the regular school year. Other times are available during June and July. Time slots are limited.