



Speech and Language Services

Speech and language services are available at Tanque Verde Pediatrics by 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. Tele-med appointments are also available.

Services are available for difficulty in the following areas:

- Early Language Development
- Language Delay
- Speech Sound Disorder
- Expressive/Receptive Language
- Fluency
- Voice
- Social Language

Please note that speech services are self-pay only. A billing receipt will be provided upon request so the patient may apply for reimbursement with their insurance carrier.

Service	Charge	Time
Speech-Language Screening Consultation	\$60	30 minutes
Comprehensive Speech-Language Evaluation	\$300	90 minutes
Individual Speech-Language Therapy (30 mins)	\$60	30 minutes
Individual Speech-Language Therapy (45 mins) or Parent-Coaching	\$85	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. All of this information can also be found on our website.

- 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.

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.

Parent-Coaching

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 research-based strategies to use when interacting with their toddler in order to encourage communication development.