



## Speech-Language Tiered-Model of Support

Dear Families,

I am excited to share that Speech-Language services have shifted to a tiered-model of support known as Response to Intervention (RTI). As you may know, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are members of school teams supporting students with communication challenges. SLPs are key members of a school team who have the expertise to assist schools to provide quality instructional approaches. SLPs are graduates of accredited University programs with Master's Degrees. SLPs are employed by the Langley School District and are regulated by the College of Speech & Hearing Health Professionals of BC. <https://cshbc.ca>

Speech-Language Pathologists work with students who need extra support in the areas of speech, language, literacy social communication, voice, and fluency. All SLPs maintain an active caseload of students with an identified need in these areas. For students on a direct caseload, SLPs work collaboratively with parents and school staff to develop goals and objectives which may or may not be part of a Student Support Plan (SSP) and/or Individualized Education Plan (IEP). In addition to working with students with an identified need, a major focus is working collaboratively with the school staff to support the communication skills of all students within a school community.

As part of the effort to be pro-active about meeting student's needs, the RTI model of support guides the SLP's work in a variety of ways. The RTI model is characterized by a multi-tiered system whereby all students have access to high-quality instruction within their classroom setting at Tier 1. Some students may receive targeted support in a flexible manner within the classroom or group setting at Tier 2. A few students may qualify for specialized/individualized direct support at Tier 3. SLPs take active steps to support school staff at all 3 tiers to help identify ways that services and an SLP's expertise can best be utilized in the most helpful and supportive way.

If you have concerns with your child's speech-language development, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. The teacher has access to SLP services and can request support from the SLP through the School-Based Team.

Sincerely,

*Carmen Eberle*  
District Principal  
Learning Support Services