



Speech Pathology at **The Grove Academy**



Meet our Speech Pathologist



Hi, I'm Sarah Nash

I am The Grove Academy's Speech Pathologist. It is exciting for me to share my passion for developing children's communication with the children, families and staff at The Grove Academy's services.

With over 20 years of experience as a Speech Pathologist working in Australia and the United Kingdom, I bring an innovative approach to supporting children with language and communication needs through early education.

I completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Speech Pathology at the University of Sydney and have worked in private practice, the National Health Service in the UK and the charity sector in Australia. I have worked as a lecturer and clinical educator for student speech pathologists at City University and University College London, and hold an adult teaching qualification as a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. I am enthusiastic about empowering adults to see the opportunities to develop children's speech and language skills in many varied situations across the day.

I will be working across the services at The Grove Academy to assess children's strengths and needs, advise parents and staff on ways to support speech and language skills and I will deliver group-based interventions to improve communication skills. For those who require a more individualised approach additional services will also be available.

Good communication skills are essential for success in life. Starting early and working in partnership with parents and children is the key. Let's do this together.





What is speech pathology?

Speech Pathologists assess, diagnose and treat children who have difficulties with speaking, listening, understanding, playing, interacting, and learning. In the early education setting speech pathology can support children to develop communication skills through play and across their day. Speech pathologists also provide education and training to families and staff.



Who benefits from speech pathology?

Communication is the key to unlock opportunities for life.

Speech Pathologists work with children who have difficulty communicating due to different reasons, such as delayed speech and language development, hearing loss, stuttering, learning disability, autism and other disorders and disabilities. Children who have difficulties eating and drinking safely can also be supported by a speech pathologist.

Speech pathology intervention sessions may be delivered in groups, one-to-one with a child, with parents or with educators. Sessions may focus on developing attention skills, understanding instructions, learning new vocabulary, developing new speech sounds, and learning how to take turns. In the pre-school years sessions are delivered through play and semi-structured activities that are designed to be fun and engaging for children.

All children can benefit from speech pathology approaches that encourage good communication. As well as group and individual intervention for those most in need, speech pathologists work with whole groups to develop positive communication skills. For example, introducing visual 'listening rules' in a preschool room can support all children to wait and listen while others are talking, to develop conversation skills.





What support is available at The Grove Academy?

The Speech Pathologist at The Grove Academy is based in each of the services for approximately one day per week. Support is delivered using an evidence-based model of intervention across three tiers:



Tier 1

- Support and train early educators to plan activities and experiences that develop speech and language skills
- Work with leaders to develop The Grove Academy's curriculum
- Work with educators and directors to audit rooms and develop communication-friendly environments
- Support and train parents to develop their children's communication skills



Tier 2

- Work with educators and parents to identify children who need additional support with speech and language
- Time-limited, structured group interventions
- Review and evaluate children's progress in these interventions
- Work with educators and parents to extend new skills learnt to other environments, through Grove Wellness plans



Tier 3

For children whose needs are not able to be met through tier 1 and 2.

- Individual in-depth assessment to diagnose and understand the nature of a child's communication difficulties, with a full assessment report
- Weekly individual treatment for children with identified speech, language, communication and interaction difficulties or diagnosed disorders
- Sessions are usually delivered one-to-one, sometimes in small groups
- Close involvement with parents to allow for follow up practice of new skills outside the therapy session – parents are welcome to attend sessions where possible
- Work closely with educators to extend new skills learnt are extended to other environments, through Grove Wellness plans

Tiers 1 and 2 are inclusive with your childcare fees at The Grove Academy.

Tier 3 is provided at an additional cost to families at The Grove Academy. Rates are competitive and are available on request.





If you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, please discuss these with your Room Leader in the first instance. You can also request to book a consultation meeting with the Speech Pathologist via the centre director.

Keep an eye out for regular speech pathology top tips and training opportunities at The Grove Academy through our social media channels.

 1300 1 GROVE



 www.tga.edu.au