

Reasons to see a speech-language pathologist

Eating, drinking, and swallowing pills

- Difficulty chewing or swallowing
- Food remaining in mouth after swallowing
- Coughing or clearing the throat during or after swallowing
- Feeling that something's stuck in the throat
- Unintended weight loss
- Aspiration pneumonia
- Before radiation treatment to the throat area
- Diagnosis of condition like ALS or Parkinson's disease

Communication (speech, language, or voice)

- Decline in ability to understand or produce speech
- Trouble reading or writing
- Difficulty being understood by others
- Change in voice quality or loudness of speech
- Poor stamina for holding a conversation
- Before laryngectomy or radiation treatment to the throat
- Diagnosis of condition like ALS or Parkinson's disease

Memory and other thinking skills

- Change in memory that is bothersome or concerning
- Misunderstanding or losing track of conversation
- Trouble with managing schedule, finances, medication, etc.
- Difficulty learning new information or procedures
- Trouble understanding time, money, or other abstract concepts
- Impulsiveness that impairs safety
- Diagnosis of condition such as dementia